

THOMAS STUTCHIFF



THE INDEPENDENT

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24-PAGE BROADSHEET REVIEW

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Is Jack Nicklaus calling it a day?



The life and times of a grass



School jobs rule, OK?

Between 1993 and 1997 the proportion of schools where behaviour was judged to be very good fell from two-thirds to one-third.

'Stop protecting all your money-grabbing cronies'

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR was forced on to the back foot by William Hague over the cash-for-access scandal yesterday as new embarrassing revelations tied a minister and two government advisers to a lobbying firm at the heart of the affair.

The Independent has learnt that Peter Mandelson, along with Ed Balls, Gordon Brown's adviser, and Roger Liddle, a member of the Downing Street Policy Unit, have been booked to brief clients of GPC Market Access. Mr Mandelson and Mr

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Tony Blair, left, on the defensive during Prime Minister's Question yesterday as William Hague warns against the dangers of Labour's 'government without principle'



PA

Liddle confirmed the booking last night, but Mr Balls denied he had been asked to take part.

Among the topics for discussion will be the policy agenda for Labour's conference this year. Economic and Monetary Union, Labour's economic policy and developments in the Public Finance Initiative.

As the Prime Minister struggled to regain the initiative under a fierce attack from the Tory leader, Derek Draper - Mr Mandelson's former adviser - was forced to resign from GPC.

There was more drama yesterday as clients of the lobbyists threatened to drop them and Labour MPs demanded that Mr Draper be thrown out of the party.

During Commons questions yesterday, Mr Blair reiterated

his call for probity from all ministers and officials. But he faced scathing comment from the Conservative leader on his first day back after a two-week illness.

Accusing Mr Blair of perpetuating a "culture of cronyism", Mr Hague said: "When are you going to stop protecting the money-grabbing cronies you've surrounded yourself with - they are feather-bedding, pocket-lining, money-grabbing cronies - and actually clean up the act of this government?"

"Don't you recognise that government without principle

very quickly becomes government for sale and that is what is now beginning to happen?"

In a self-mocking reference to the illness which laid him low for a fortnight, the Tory leader said "Even with my sinuses I could smell the stench coming out of these revelations."

But Mr Blair said each allegation in the cash-for-access row had been disproved. "You bandy around allegations of cronyism and corruption. What you won't do is make a specific charge and sustain it. That is because every allegation made in the Observer has been investigated and found to be untrue," he said.

"This case isn't Jonathan Aitken. It is not Neil Hamilton. It is not cash-for-questions. It is not Asil Nadir."

Mr Blair confirmed that the Cabinet Secretary, Sir Richard Wilson, was reviewing the rules governing relationships with lobbyists. Those rules would be published and anyone breaking them would be "out on their ear", he said.

Meanwhile the firm at the centre of the new revelations, GPC Market Access, announced the resignation of Mr

Draper, who had been accused of claiming privileged access to ministers.

Sir Ian Wigglesworth, company chairman, said: "Following discussions, Derek Draper has this afternoon told GPC he has resigned in the best interests of GPC, its clients and staff, and to pursue other interests." Mr Draper said he hoped to sign a contract for a newspaper column shortly.

There was a further fresh twist as the Local Government minister, Hilary Armstrong, walked out of a news conference when asked by a BBC cor-

respondent about claims that another lobbyist at the centre of the recent controversy, Ben Lucas, had promised the Local Government Association he could offer an early sight of a local government White Paper. Ms Armstrong claimed the question was unfair.

Yesterday, members of the Parliamentary Labour Party demanded that Mr Draper be expelled from the party, and later an executive committee including Tony Blair and John Prescott confirmed that there were mechanisms for doing so if necessary. Ironically, an of-

fence of bringing the party into disrepute, introduced by New Labour and dismissed by left-wingers as an attempt to purge them, could be the downfall of Mr Draper - a Blairite.

Last night, Mr Mandelson defended his decision to speak at the GPC Forum - to which

he was invited by Mr Draper. "Though no date is in my diary I am happy to participate in such an event. I have addressed many similar business forums and regard such discussions as an important part of my ministerial role and will continue to do so," he said.

College tuition fees plan in chaos

PLANS TO impose university tuition fees on all students from September are in doubt after peers vowed to continue their rebellion over fees in Scotland. Senior government sources have admitted that the Bill introducing fees and a new system of student loans could be lost if the Lords persist in their opposition.

The positions of both sides appeared to be hardening last night. Tony Blair told the Commons that the Government would not give in to the Lords'

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

demand. Baroness Blatch, the Conservatives' education spokeswoman in the Lords, said: "The feeling in the House of Lords last night was so strong and so robust I would be surprised if they would cave in to Government pressure."

On Tuesday, peers voted that students from England, Wales and Northern Ireland, should be exempt, like Scottish students, from a fourth-year of tuition fees

at Scottish universities. Most students outside Scotland are on three year courses.

Vice-chancellors are worried that the deadline may kill the whole Teaching and Higher Education Bill and postpone the introduction of tuition fees. Universities say fees are vital to relieve the financial crisis in higher education.

Diana Warwick, chief executive of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, said: "The top priority now must be to ensure that

the Bill gets through in time."

Tuesday's vote was the third defeat for the Government over the issue. The peers' amendment is expected to be overturned in the Commons on Monday but, because the Bill started in the Lords, the normal rules which allow the Commons to override Lords' decisions do not apply.

Next Tuesday, the Bill will again return to the Lords and could, in theory, be battered to and fro between the two houses throughout the summer

until it falls in the autumn. That is not expected to happen but David Willetts, MP, the shadow secretary of state for education, said: "The Government is being dangerously complacent. Ministers will be very lucky to get the Lords to back down."

Mr Blair told the Commons that a government concession would ultimately cost £27m because it would have to fund the fourth year of tuition on courses at English universities. But Mr Willetts said the

righting of the "Scottish anomaly" would cost just £2m and there was no logical reason why the changes should apply outside Scotland.

"We understand that the Scottish Office has already set aside the £2m but that this is being blocked by the Department for Education and Employment. There is no rational explanation for the Government's position. It is quite simply a personality clash between the department and the Scottish Office."

Tina Brown quits to launch 'Tina', the mag

TINA BROWN resigned as editor of the New Yorker yesterday, ending weeks of speculation about her future.

She is joining Miramax, the independent film-production company, to become chairman of a new publishing division. It is believed her responsibilities will include launching and editing a new glossy magazine.

Ms Brown, 44, who is

BY TOBY YOUNG

British, announced her departure to staff yesterday morning but did not notify the New Yorker's proprietor, Si Newhouse, until later, when she apparently told him during a conference call at which several of her staff were present.

Her decision follows a tense meeting with Mr Newhouse

last week to discuss renewal of her contract, which expired on 1 July. She is reported to have told him she had a number of job offers. He failed to plead with her to stay and she decided enough was enough.

Ms Brown has had a number of setbacks this year. In January it was announced the New Yorker lost \$11m (£6.8m) in 1997 and would therefore lose

its independent status within Mr Newhouse's empire and become part of Conde Nast, the Newhouse family's magazine publishing company. The magazine is to vacate its spacious offices on West 43rd Street and compete for space with 15 other Conde Nast titles in a new tower block in Times Square.

This was a blow to Ms Brown, who had hoped to

strengthen the magazine's independence within the Newhouse stable. According to the New York Times last month "(She) saw the magazine as a strong base from which to develop ancillary sources of revenue, like a book-publishing division or film-production company, consistent with the New Yorker."

Editor of glitz, page 5



Brown: Joining Miramax

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crony *krōn'i*, *n.* an intimate companion. — *n.* **crō'nyism** (*U.S. coll.*) the appointment of friends to well-paid posts regardless of their fitness for these posts.

So just who are Tony's cronies?



GEOFFREY ROBINSON

Paymaster General and New Statesman proprietor. Financial affairs of Balkan complexity. Protected by Gordon Brown but facing a move to Transport after DTI indicated his business interests were too intriguing for a trade and industry portfolio



GAIL REBUTCK

Ardently Blairite. Energetic and articulate head of Random House, short-listed for job as vice-chairman of the BBC. Her husband, Philip Gould, is Mr Blair's personal pollster, closely involved with Lord Hollick and United Newspapers.



NEAL LAWSON

Former adviser to Gordon Brown who set up LLM consultancy with two veterans of Tony Blair and Jack Straw's offices. Key figure in Nexus, Blairite intellectual network. Promised prospective clients help in navigating "schizophrenic" New Labour.



ROGER LIDDLE

Amusing and bibulous former Social Democrat, erstwhile business partner of Mr Draper. In the vanguard of the pro-EMU camp inside No 10 Policy Unit. Reputed to have told Observer journalist that he would "make the call" to anyone within inner circle.



DEREK DRAPER

Derek Draper. Self-confessed "boastful and brash" Chorley-born lobbyist who started trouble at 11 mill by bragging of his intimacy with the "seventeen people who matter". Former Prime Ministerial baby-sitter and aide to Peter Mandelson.



BEN LUCAS

Former adviser and prized speech-writer to Jack Straw. Joined forces with Lawson and Jonny Mendelsohn after the 1997 general election to create the LLM lobbying company.

AND HOW DO YOU DEFINE ONE?

THERE WAS nothing wrong with being someone's crony until comparatively recently. The word comes from the Greek *chronos*, long-continued (derived from *chronos*, time) and originally meant simply an old friend. The *Oxford English Dictionary* suggests it was originally college slang but the first cited use was by Samuel Pepys in his diary entry for 30 May 1665, when he referred to "Jack Cole, my old schoolfellow... who was a great crony of mine". Robert Burns also seemed to be using the word in a positive sense when he wrote, in "Tam o'Shanter" in 1791: "His ancient, trusty,

drouthy crony, Tam lo'd him like a vera brither". In the 19th century Walter Scott, Thackeray and Wilde Collins all used crony to mean no more than a close and trusted friend. The start of the slide into pejorative use may have begun when Disraeli used crony as a verb: "I wonder whom Grey will crony with this half", he wrote in 1826. The 1972 Supplement to the OED blames the Americans for the modern political phenomenon of cronyism. Two meanings are listed: "a. Friendship; the ability or desire to make friends. b. (Chiefly US) The appointment of friends to govern-

ment posts without proper regard to their qualifications." While the affectionate use dates back to 1840, the earliest derogatory reference to cronyism came from Walter de la Mare in 1922, when he accused Samuel Johnson of it. The first political leader to be charged with cronyism appears to have been President Truman, when the *New York Times* of 17 August 1952 referred to: "The amount of politically entrenched bureaucracy that has earned for Mr Truman's regime its sorry reputation for corruption, cronyism, extravagance, waste and confusion."

WILLIAM HARTSTON

ed, dedicated team, praised for its hard work and ability to pull together into something which, with a bit of Tory spin, can seem far more sinister.

The trouble, as John Major discovered, is judging when to start throwing bodies overboard. A prime minister who gets rid of ministers at the first flash of tabloid sex-revelation soon ends up as hostage to voracious media demands for heads on platters. Mr Blair made it clear in his handling of Robin Cook's extra-marital affair that he drew a distinction between public and private life.

Sleaze, however, is different and in Scotland and corruption-prone local councils, Mr Blair has suspended suspected wrongdoers. Closer to home, he is less Draconian, standing by Lord Simon, the minister who was revealed to have undeclared off-shore holdings and defending Paymaster Geoffrey Robinson against allegations of financial impropriety.

The tension between Mr Blair's tolerance of foibles at

Westminster and his ruthlessness in other parts of the country will not go unnoticed. Mr Draper, who dwells so tantalisingly on the borderline between being great fun and a great liability, has soaked up a lot of them vicariously from people who dare not attack his soul-mate, Peter Mandelson.

The more serious matter for the Government is the accusation that No 10 adviser Roger Liddle was prepared to act in concert with Mr Draper's firm to help it secure business. That implication is that Mr Liddle maintained an unsuitably close relationship with lobbying interests when in government.

That is a serious charge. It would have been better if the advisor had offered his resignation, pending investigation of the claims. The Prime Minister should have accepted it. That may still be the best course of action to salvage the Government's most valued asset - its reputation for probity.

WILLIAM HAGUE is back from the ropes and it was some of Tony Blair's best friends who helped him stage his recovery. To judge from the body-language at the dispatch box yesterday - the Prime Minister hunched and glancing anxiously at his notes, Mr Hague leaning forward, buzzing with malicious adrenaline - you would think that Mr Blair had been subjected to a debilitating illness, not the Leader of the Opposition.

Crony is an unpleasant word, and thus an extremely effective political weapon. When Mr Hague used it repeatedly to attack the tightly-knit circle of advisers and allies around Mr Blair, he struck a nerve - albeit one left by New Labour with a great big sign on it saying "hit me".

Mr Hague's attack served up a picture of a closed, unaccountable coterie around the Prime Minister, distant from ordinary voters in lifestyle, clinging to power, hubristic and greedy for per-

BY ANNE MCELVOY

sonal gain. All of these points could be made for all time about all political cultures. But sometimes, they hit home because something intangible and unexpected suddenly connects. A powerful negative picture emerges which a clever opposition can exploit. So it is with Lobbygate.

The Tories have waited since May 1997 for a new Labour stumble which would pull together the various diffuse criticisms. They have now got it. The studied implication of Mr Hague's comments was that the Prime Minister, who told TV viewers he was a "pretty straight sort of guy" when accused of reversing a pledge on banning tobacco sponsorship, had allowed an in-crowd to develop around him which believes itself to be above reproach or scrutiny.

The appetite to hear 20 rude things about New Labour you always thought but didn't dare to say has been awakened. Politics

is full of people envious of the links and cachet of others. Left and Right are now united in pouring contempt on the fashionably gelled head of lobbyist Derek Draper and the unfashionably receding one of No 10 adviser Roger Liddle.

To that extent, Mr Draper's plaintive defence: "I've done nothing wrong", is irrelevant. As he knows full well as an ex-

perienced New Labour strategist know only too well, it is appearance of wrong-doing that counts. Neil Hamilton was always doomed as much by his own arrogance than by any alleged receiving of Al Fayed bribes. There is still not enough humility issuing from any of the accused to cool the fever of these accusations.

Labour's continuing popu-

larity has three main props. The first is the high regard for the Prime Minister, who is a gifted communicator. The second is the impression that the party is working as a team, avoiding the infighting and power struggles which afflicted John Major's government in its terminal phase.

The third, the perception that it is upright and not vul-

nerable to the outbreaks of sleaze and dubious dealings to which the Tories were seen to succumb after the antics of Hamilton and the Cash-for-Questions MPs.

But this idyl is more vulnerable than the Blairites seem to have realised. The merest whiff of influence-peddling and log-rolling transforms the image of a closely co-ordinat-

panel has made a recommendation to Mr Blair.

If Ms Rebutck is appointed, it will be an unpopular decision within the BBC, which favours film producer Lord Putnam, a staunch advocate of public service broadcasting. Lord Putnam is understood to have the backing of Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, and has enthusiastically put himself forward for what he has described as a "fantastically important" job.

The third name on the shortlist is believed to be Lady Young,

head of environmental quango English Nature and an adviser to the deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott. None of the three candidates believed to be shortlisted were available for comment yesterday.

The next vice-chairman is expected to take up the position on 1 August when the incumbent, former Labour whip Lord Cocks, steps down. The DCMS spokesman said yesterday that an announcement was expected on 21 July when two new governors will also be appointed.

'Times' drops Bragg column BBC appointment attacked

THE CONSERVATIVE campaign to have the broadcaster and commentator, Melvyn Bragg, removed from positions of media influence won another battle yesterday as the *Times* admitted his weekly column has been dropped.

The new Labour peer's elevation to the House of Lords has led to the swift curtailment of his activities as a media commentator. Yesterday, the future of his Channel 4 series *The Sundays* was also under question. This followed Tues-

BY JANINE GIBSON

Media Correspondent

day's announcement that he would stand down as presenter of Radio 4's discussion programme *Start the Week*.

Tory media spokesman, Peter Ainsworth, had written to both companies warning that the party would monitor Mr Bragg's programmes for evidence of political bias.

Channel 4's Saturday night programme *The Sundays*, in which Mr Bragg hosts discus-

sion of the following day's papers, reaches the end of its seven-week run this weekend. A Channel 4 spokeswoman said yesterday: "The channel is confident that he will maintain his impartial chairmanship of it. No decision has yet been taken as to whether or not it will be recommissioned."

Mr Bragg will write his final column for the *Times* on Monday, after two years. The South Bank Show host is also controller of arts programming at London Weekend Television.

A close colleague at LWT said yesterday they had no idea he was ending his *Times* column as well. She said: "Goodness. He'll have no life left."

A News International spokeswoman confirmed that Mr Bragg was leaving the paper but stressed that the decision was "mutual and amicable". She said: "Melvyn felt that in his new role the range of subjects he would be able to tackle would not be wide enough." Mr Bragg was unavailable for comment.

THE ALREADY controversial appointment of a new vice chairman of the BBC was dubbed part of the Prime Minister's "culture of cronyism" yesterday.

Reports yesterday that Gail Rebutck, the millionaire wife of the Prime Minister's adviser, Philip Gould, is tipped for the post, led Conservative leader William Hague to level the accusation of cronyism at Tony Blair.

The chief executive of the Random Century publishing

group, Ms Rebutck is believed to be one of a shortlist of three Labour supporters who were interviewed for the job.

As Mr Blair denied putting forward a "crony" for the BBC post yesterday, a spokesman for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport confirmed that the Prime Minister is in the process of approving the proposed candidate. Shortlisted candidates were interviewed last week and the interview

panel has made a recommendation to Mr Blair.

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Orange Order threatens to snub Blair

THE ORANGE Order may refuse to meet Tony Blair today after Downing Street rejected suggestions that the decision to re-route the Drumcree march from the Garvaghy Road will not be overturned.

Sources within the Orange Order believe that those who want to continue with plans to meet Mr Blair will most probably get their way, but the hardliners may severely restrict their room for manoeuvre over any possible deal.

The development came against a background of rising tension and expectations of further violence. The Royal Ulster Constabulary revealed that there had been more than 1,400 acts of violent disorder since Sunday evening, including 12

BY KIM SENGUPTA

shootings and 25 blast bombs. There have been more than 200 attacks on the security forces.

The Orange Order's leadership has been under increasing pressure from some members, including Joel Patton of the Spirit of Drumcree group, not to go for talks with Mr Blair when he visits Ulster today. For the moment, the loyalists hold the upper hand, and any compromise would be seen as an act of weakness.

David Jones, the Orange Order's spokesman in Portadown, stated that the Prime Minister must make up his mind about allowing the parade to go down Garvaghy Road, "and it make it up quick". He



An Orangeman videotaping troops across the barricade in a field near Drumcree church, Portadown

Dan Chung

added that the alternative would be open confrontation between his members and security forces on 12 July. He continued: "The clock is ticking and ticking fast."

As the first of the extra 800 troops being sent to Northern

Ireland flew in yesterday, Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, stated that if it was discovered that loyalist paramilitaries had broken their ceasefire she would consider a whole range of sanctions, including stopping the

early release of prisoners. Ms Mowlam met the RUC Chief Constable, Ronnie Flanagan, and strongly condemned the loyalist violence which had been unleashed, and in particular singled out the attacks on Catholics, and the

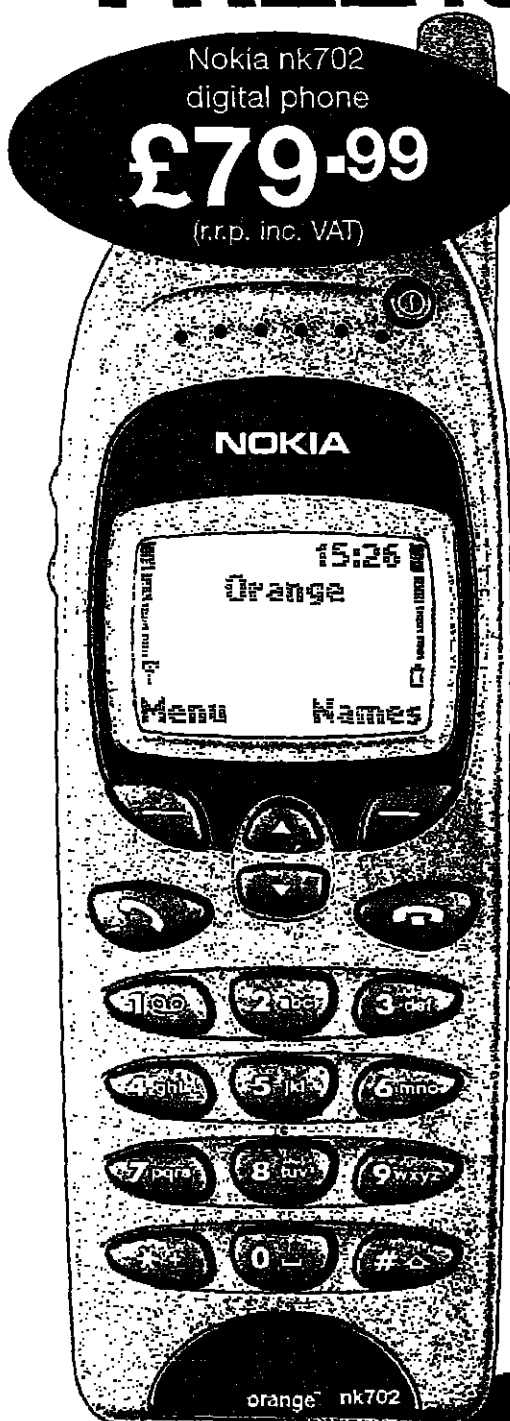
wives and children of police officers. Meanwhile, the residents of the lower Ormeau Road in Belfast yesterday won the first round in their legal battle to stop an Orange Order march through their area next Monday. Mr Justice Campbell

sitting in the high court, granted leave for an application for judicial review of the Parades Commission's decision to allow the march to go through the predominantly nationalist area. Residents are claiming that this had been based, unfairly, on

reasons of political expediency. The disturbances had led to severe problems for the local economy, with many shops shut and centres of towns deserted. Late night shopping in Belfast tonight has been cancelled because of the security situation.

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Mirror chief buys into peace process

BY PAUL MCCANN
Media Editor

Derry Journal

IT WOULD once have been an unthinkable deal: David Montgomery, the Bangor-born Ulster Protestant and newspaper owner buying a 200-year-old Irish nationalist newspaper.

Mr Montgomery, who is chief executive of Mirror Group Newspapers, yesterday announced the £18m purchase of the *Derry Journal*, the Londonderry newspaper which has served the city's Catholic community since 1772.

From the outside the purchase looks remarkable. Mr Montgomery is a close friend of David Burnside, the former Conservative Party and British Airways PR man. Mr Burnside was a member of the extremist Ulster Unionist movement, Ulster Vanguard, which opposed the 1974 attempt at power-sharing between the Catholic and Protestant communities.

At around the same time as Mr Montgomery was editor of Queen's University's *Gown* student newspaper, he penned articles that have since been used to identify him as a die-hard Unionist.

But in the last two years, Mr Montgomery has been a quiet worker behind the scenes to push forward the Northern Ireland peace process.

Shortly after Mirror Group's purchase of the traditionally staunch Unionist *Belfast News Letter* in 1996, that newspaper's stance softened to make it pro-peace process. Its editor has shared platforms and run joint editorials with the nationalist *Irish News*.

The *News Letter* has even called for the British Government to make an apology to the Catholic community for Bloody Sunday. A move which one observer of the province's politics

has described as "like the *Daily Mail* calling for Enoch Powell to be disinterred and hung from a lamppost".

Just six months after buying the *News Letter* the Mirror Group's chief executive gave a speech in the province which urged Ulster's business people to come forward and replace the "died" politicians of earlier generations who had failed the six counties.

Then, in December last year, Mr Montgomery refused to attend a meeting of Unionists hosted by Lord Cranborne, informal leader of Britain's Anglo-Unionist lobby. The meeting was intended to find alternatives to the peace process and the organisers confidently expected Mr Montgomery's support. Instead he sent a message saying the process start-



Montgomery: Purchase is 'good for shareholders'

ed by the Downing Street declaration was the only option.

That month he also warned Unionists at a meeting in Belfast that patience with them was running out on the mainland, and if the peace process failed they would get the blame.

Yet those close to Montgomery deny that any great conversion has taken place. "He has an identifiable Ulster Protestant name," says a close friend. "But people have made a simplistic assumption about him from that. There has never been any Orange Order or sectarian connections in his family. He has never been a member of any Northern Ireland political party."

Mr Montgomery's support of the peace process also chimes with many of the province's business leaders, which may well be where he sees his future. Recent City speculation has seen Mr Montgomery buying newspapers in Northern Ireland to prepare a base there.

Such is the change being felt in Ulster politics that staff at the *Derry Journal* yesterday were concerned more for their jobs and working conditions than about their new owner's religious background. "We know him more as a numbers man," said one journalist. "We don't think he'll get involved in the editorial of the paper."

The *Mirror Group* chief himself will only say that the acquisition of the *Derry Journal* is good for his shareholders.

Some believe that the purchase is more about expanding his business and getting extra printing capacity for Irish editions of the *Mirror* than about the future of Northern Ireland. But for David Montgomery, the two are ultimately connected.

Museums 'man of the year' loses his job

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

BRITAIN'S MOST controversial museum director, Julian Spalding, has had his post of head of Glasgow Museums abolished by the city council. He has been given a pay-off believed to be £100,000 in addition to his £30,000 a year pension.

In a tortuous procedure which has ended his nine-year tenure, Glasgow council merged its museums and libraries departments with the parks department to make a new culture and leisure services department.

This meant that Mr Spalding had to re-apply for his own job. He was the only applicant but failed to keep his post, which was re-advertised. The job went subsequently to Bridget McConnell, the community affairs

manager of Fife council. Ms McConnell, the wife of the former general secretary of the Labour Party in Scotland, Jack McConnell, will have a £71,000-a-year post and be in charge of a £94m budget.

Mr Spalding's eventful career climaxed last year with a court case against the trustees of the Burrell Collection after he decided to ignore the terms of the bequest and loan items from the collection abroad. His many achievements include opening Glasgow's gallery of modern art and winning the Museums Man of the Year award last year for his fight against admission charges.

Mr Spalding, 49, has long been a controversial figure in Glasgow. Though a socialist, last year he cut many museum posts and closed the museums for one day a week as budget economies.

Mr Spalding is said to be shattered by Glasgow's determination to let him go. He is known circles for having a populist touch, but has failed to become a part of the art establishment's inner circle, applying unsuccessfully in the past for the directorships of the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Tate Gallery.

According to one Glasgow Museums official yesterday, "Julian stirred things up and changed things. He also made great enemies."

Editor whose jet-set style put glitz into the gossip



Tina Brown in her New York office during her editorship of 'Vanity Fair'

BY PAUL MCCANN
Media Editor

IT IS no exaggeration to say that Tina Brown has been the most viciously gossiped-about journalist of her generation.

Her near-mythical successes at networking, turning around ailing magazines, her looks and her marriage to the former *Sunday Times* editor, Harold Evans, means she has been consistently in the news for two decades.

Now that she has left the *New Yorker*, America's most prestigious magazine, the gossip will only get worse.

Ms Brown, 44, became used to celebrity during her *Home Counties* childhood. Her father, George Brown, was a producer of minor British films *Guns at Batasi* and *The Trap*, while her mother, Bettina, used to be Laurence Olivier's press agent. It has been maliciously reported that even as a child she would seek out the most famous lap to sit on at her parents' frequent dinner parties.

At Oxford, she wrote a play, *Under the Bamboo Tree*, which was performed at the Bush Theatre and won the *Sunday Times* drama award in 1973. She graduated with a second in English and began writing for the newspaper that gave her the award and was to give her a future husband.

At the *Sunday Times* her social contacts were legendary. Shortly after she arrived her section editor went, out of sympathy, to a party she was throwing expecting to meet her student friends. Instead the guests included Kingsley and Martin Amis, Kenneth Tynan,



Ms Brown with her husband Harry Evans - king and queen of the New York jet set

Auberon Waugh, Clive James and Tom Stoppard.

After winning awards for her journalism at the *Sunday Times* she joined the ailing *Tatler* magazine in 1979. At the time it was selling only 4,000 copies. By focusing on the glamorous and powerful she took its sales up to 20,000.

After marrying Mr Evans in 1981, she was moved by *Thatcher*'s

new owner, Sir Newhouse of Condé Nast, to *Vanity Fair*, famously the magazine with the biggest editorial budget in the world.

Thanks to this, *Vanity Fair* was losing a reported \$50m (£30m) a year which Ms Brown claimed to have turned into an annual profit of \$8m in her eight years there.

It was during this period

that her personal style generated much bitchy gossip. She was reputed not to know the names of her staff and to use personal assistants as if they were servants.

Yet she was also famous for being an assiduous worker who would dispatch faxes to contributors at all hours of the day and night.

When she moved to the *New*

Yorker in 1992 - house journal of the tweedy, East Coast WASP establishment - there was more bitching. Her intellectual qualifications for the job were questioned and much resentment was directed at her for being a British arriviste. The jealousy was not helped by Harry Evans' position as president of Random House in New York and the couple's billing as the king and queen of the city's jet set.

The *New Yorker* has been consistently criticised for pandering to celebrity so that Ms Brown now describes herself as "an arse-kissing social gorgon". Former contributors like the writer Garrison Keillor have accused her of "obliterating" the magazine even though its circulation moved up by 200,000 to over 800,000 during her reign.

Despite the circulation increases, the magazine continues to lose money and rumours about her future were rife earlier this year when it was revealed that the magazine's owner, Condé Nast, was taking direct financial control of what was previously Ms Brown's personal fiefdom.

Her closeness to the Blair and Clinton administrations has led to speculation that she might become British Ambassador to the US and she has even been linked to the *Observer* newspaper. Now that her husband has left Random House - and has what is described as a "non-job" for a New York newspaper group - expectations are that New York's most glamorous couple will be heading back across the Atlantic, unbowed, but still gossiped about.

Calculators banned from maths class

CHILDREN under the age of eight should not use calculators, ministers said yesterday as they promised £60m to revolutionise maths teaching.

For the first time, the Government is telling teachers how to teach the subject. There should be a daily numeracy hour, new emphasis on mental arithmetic, the chanting of times tables and more whole-class teaching.

The strategy, which will be introduced next September, is not compulsory but schools which fail to win inspectors' approval will be attacked if they are not using it.

International studies have shown that Britain is falling behind other countries in maths and ministers have pledged that 75 per cent of 11-year-olds will achieve the expected level in maths by the year 2002.

David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education, said: "Schools need to use tried and tested methods. It is regrettable that we have too many children who can't add up or do basic sums by the time they start secondary school."

Learning times tables, he added, could be fun: at a school

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

he visited, children were using a reggae chant.

Ministers cannot ban calculators without changing the law but they made clear that they want schools to stop using them for infant pupils and to restrict their use for juniors.

Mr Blunkett said: "Reinforcing mental arithmetic will do much to avoid total dependence on calculators, which should be used in the right place and for the right reasons."

The strategy, based on a report from a government task force led by Professor David Reynolds, of Newcastle University, aims to end the use of "discovery" learning and to replace it with the type of whole-class teaching used in some European and Pacific Rim countries.

Teachers should not sit children in rows and lecture them, as they did in the Fifties, but should engage them in questioning and discussion during whole-class sessions.

Professor Reynolds said that the neglect of whole-class teaching had been particular-

ly harmful to maths teaching. "Until three or four years ago, only 20 per cent of the time in many maths lessons was used for instruction and the rest would be for children working in groups or on their own. Maths needs instruction, because children can't necessarily discover it for themselves."

Professor Reynolds recommends a daily 45-minute maths slot for infants and an hour for juniors. All primary schools will be expected to review their maths teaching and all teachers will be offered retraining. Some of the money will be spent on maths classes for parents and on booklets explaining to them how they can help their children with maths.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, warned the Government against a too detailed prescription for teaching methods. "If helpful proposals are turned into dictat or rigid timetables are imposed, the strategy will be undermined in teachers' eyes."

Schools will start implementing the Government's new literacy strategy, including a literacy hour, in September.

IN BRIEF

Variety Club fraud investigation

A BRANCH of the Variety Club, the multi-million pound children's charity, is being investigated for fraud. One official has been suspended and fraud squad detectives have been called in to examine the accounts of the club's Northern Region office, based in Newcastle upon Tyne. The club's headquarters in London alerted the Charity Commission about possible irregularities in the accounts of the Northern branch.

Jenkins appeals conviction

THE STEPFATHER of murdered teenager Billie-Jo Jenkins has launched an appeal against his conviction for her murder. Lawyers for Sion Jenkins, 40, said yesterday they had lodged appeal papers at Lewes Crown Court, Sussex, where the former deputy headteacher was convicted last week. Jenkins had denied bludgeoning Billie-Jo, 13, to death with an iron spike at her foster family's home in Hastings, Sussex, in February last year.

Police body faces £900,000 bill

THE POLICE Federation faces a £900,000 bill after losing an appeal yesterday against the *Guardian* which they claimed had libelled five of their members. Five Metropolitan Police officers, who were not named in an article in the newspaper, claimed they had been linked to an investigation into corruption at a north London police station.

Reynolds wins new libel trial

LORD BINGHAM, the Lord Chief Justice, yesterday found there were "misdirections" by the judge who had awarded Albert Reynolds, the former Irish prime minister, just 1p damages in 1996 in a libel case against the *Sunday Times*.

Women to face wait for Viagra

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
AND CHARLES ARTHUR

A BLACK market in Viagra will spring up once it is licensed in the UK - among women, a British expert said yesterday.

Derek Machin, a consultant urologist, said trials among women in America of the anti-impotence pill suggested it had beneficial effects. But women should avoid taking it if they were pregnant or likely to become so, because of the potential risk to the foetus.

About 100 women in south-east England and elsewhere in Europe are testing the drug for its effect on their sex lives, the manufacturer, Pfizer, said, but it could be years before any version for women appeared.

William Steers, a US specialist who co-authored the biggest study on Viagra's effects in men, agreed that "there's a lot of pent-up demand" from women for a drug which would have a similar effect on them.

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Defence review takes toll on the TA

KEY CHANGES		
	Pre-SDR plan	Post-SDR plan
Aircraft-carriers	3	2 (larger)
Ro-ro ships	2	6
Attack submarines	12	10
Destroyers/frigates	35	32
Trident missiles	65	58
Nuclear warheads (max. per submarine)	96	48
Offensive air support	177	154
Heavy airlift (C-17)	0	4
Armoured regiments	8	6
Engineer regiments	11	13
Territorial Army (troops)	57,000	40,000
£ Total defence budget	£22.24bn	£21.55bn

TERRITORIAL ARMY halls across the country could be closed as part of the £685m cuts in spending ordered yesterday under the Strategic Defence Review.

The strategy outlined by George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, aims to modernise the Army, Navy and Air Force into a more flexible, harder-hitting joint rapid-reaction force capable intervening in areas of sudden tension such as Bosnia and Sierra Leone.

There will be two new £2bn aircraft-carriers, planned to go into service in 2012, an extension of the capability to fire Tomahawk land-attack missiles from submarines, a new 200-bed hospital ship, four roll-on roll-off ferries, four new heavy-lift C-17 aircraft and a new force of air cavalry combining Apache helicopters with the Parachute Regiment.

Mr Robertson insisted it was a foreign policy-led review, designed to give the forces more emphasis on peace-keeping and conflict resolution. Some MPs described the plan as "Oxiam with guns".

Mr Robertson defended the cuts in the TA, whose primary role had been to repel an invasion from the former Soviet Union. He said it would be more relevant, and called up more often in times of crisis.

There are likely to be campaigns to preserve some of the TA units. John Maples, the Tory spokesman on defence, said 172 TA centres would be closed. "We believe that cutting

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

the TA by one third will be one of the biggest mistakes of this review." He said the cuts would amount to a total £915m, or £1.25bn in real terms. He did not believe the Government would fulfil its plans for building the aircraft-carriers.

The main cuts will be: TA down from 57,000 to 40,000; attack submarines down from 12 to 10; frigates and destroyers down from 35 to 32; combat planes down from 177 to 154.

Barracks and MoD property across Britain, including the Chelsea Barracks and Duke of York's Headquarters for the TA in Chelsea, will be put up for sale as part of sell-offs to raise an estimated £700m over the next four years. But Mr Robertson, who fought off Treasury attempts to cut £2bn from his budget, told MPs that the Chiefs of Staff gave "wholehearted support" to the outcome of the review.

Officials said most of the armed-forces chiefs had gained more than they had lost.

The increases, which they had been campaigning for, include the promise to build aircraft-carriers able to carry 50 fixed-wing aircraft, compared to the present 24 Harriers.

But the strategy will also see the merging of more forces, including the operation of Harrier jump-jets with Sea Harriers. The Secretary of State for Defence broke decades of secrecy



A female TA member training. The force, whose primary role had been to repel invasion by the former Soviet Union, is to be cut from 57,000 to 40,000

Tom Pileton

Tory blamed for Defence leak

BY COLIN BROWN

Maples, the shadow Defence secretary of state, said on BBC radio that he had received a photocopied version of the Strategic Defence Review at "around 6.30pm" on Monday.

It was on "portaculis House of Commons watermarked paper", he said.

The Tory leadership last night rejected as "ridiculous" the suggestion that the source of the leak was Mr Key. It is understood that Mr Key also received the report, like a group of journalists, in brown paper envelopes at the House of Commons, and there is no suggestion he was the source.

The leak was the most serious since Labour came to power, and the most comprehensive since the contents of

Kenneth Clarke's entire budget, when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer, were leaked from a printers to a national newspaper.

The entire document was delivered in brown paper envelopes to selected journalists at the Daily Telegraph, the Times, the Press Association, Financial Times and the Daily Mail, at different intervals on the eve of its publication. Each of the journalists was called by telephone and told to collect the envelope, containing a photocopy of the report.

One senior Tory Party official said: "The suggestion that we leaked it to take Derek Draper off the front pages is too crazy to be worth considering."

Mr Hague said: "Only a prime minister in desperate trouble could believe that the

leak of a government document didn't come how originate with the Government. What a ridiculous thing to raise."

There was speculation among Tory MPs that the document was leaked by Downing Street to deflect attention from the row engulfing Mr Blair over ministerial links to lobbyists, such as Derek Draper.

Denying the charge, a Downing Street spokesman said: "This leak could only have been caused by someone wanting to damage the Government."

With both sides making counter claims, Ministry of Defence officials privately said the source of the leak "could be almost anybody".

The SDR document, a glossy brochure covering 57

pages, was printed in London and prior to release was sent to several centres around the country to inform MOD staff the moment it was published.

Mr Robertson apologised to the House and said he had launched "an immediate and thorough inquiry" into the leak.

The Liberal Democrat Defence spokesman, Menzies Campbell, told the Commons that the leaking of the document was "systematic, in the sense that it was sent to a series of newspapers in a brown envelope".

He said: "Leaking in this way is an insult to this House and it is an insult to the men and women of the armed services whose jobs and whose future may depend upon the contents of the SDR."



"She sounds a little rough. This is hope."

Pair jailed for stealing from public sports lobby

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

A ONCE trusted friend of the Duke of Edinburgh and one of the country's most powerful sports lobbyists was jailed for 18 months yesterday for stealing taxpayers' money.

Peter Lawson, general secretary of the publicly-funded Central Council of Physical Recreation, also took money which had been raised for Sir Stanley Matthews at an 80th birthday testimonial dinner, a court heard.

Lawson enjoyed a close working relationship with Prince Philip, the president of the CCPR, while secretly indulging in years of "wholesale dishonesty" with the help of his son Christopher, who received a two-year sentence.

A large slice of the money they took from the organisation which represents nearly 300 sporting bodies, was ploughed into private business interests, home improvements and foreign travel.

In what Judge Geoffrey Rivlin QC called a "particularly mean offence", Christopher Lawson used some of the money that should have gone to Sir Stanley to help buy a motorbike.

Both men stood emotionless in the dock at Southwark Crown Court as the judge said: "It is indeed a sad day when father and son appear together in the dock as you have."

"These offences implicated, and in some cases compromised, other people in your dishonesty and involved considerable forethought and effort."

He told Peter Lawson that he took into account all the good work he had done during his 23 years as general secretary of the CCPR as well as the "heavy burden of anxiety and its toll on your health", the case had caused.

But he added: "You were able to commit these offences because you were allowed to become too powerful and came to believe

you could do what you liked without challenge."

"That was because you were trusted, but it is hardly fair to blame the many eminent people in the sporting world who trusted you."

Turning to Christopher Lawson, 28, the CCPR's former senior development officer, the judge said that far from being led into dishonesty by his father, he had been a "very active and enthusiastic participant" in what went on.

"I have no doubt you conceived a good part of it yourself. You caused so many false invoices to be raised, you told so many lies, that it has indeed been difficult for the court to keep track of them. You were driving the fraudulent activities as hard as you could."

Peter Lawson, from Sidcup in Kent, who was convicted on Tuesday of two charges of conspiracy to defraud and four offences of furnishing false information, was also disqualified

from being a company director for four years.

His son, also from Sidcup, who was banned for seven years, was found guilty of two offences of conspiracy to defraud, one of theft and six of furnishing false information.

During the two-month trial, the court heard that the Lawsons stole at least £30,000, but an investigation by the accountants KPMG revealed a £300,000 hole in CCPR's accounts.

Malcolm Denton, the CCPR's new general secretary, said later that the Lawsons had "betrayed" the sporting body. He said the "hard working and dedicated" volunteers who make up the organisation's executive committee "inevitably place great trust in the integrity and probity of its professional officers".

He added that since the men's dishonesty was discovered three years ago, control procedures had been reviewed and improved.

Pharmacists sue artist Hirst

BY ANJALI KWATRA

A FASHIONABLE restaurant owned by controversial artist Damien Hirst is to be prosecuted by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society for using the name Pharmacy, it was announced yesterday.

The society, which represents and registers high-street chemists, said unauthorised use of "pharmacy" and "pharmacist" was illegal under the 1968 Medicines Act. A spokeswoman for the society, Susan Sharpe, said their concern was that members of the public could confuse the place with a real chemist and go there to seek medical advice.

As well as the sign outside, the restaurant displays medicinal bottles and pill packets in its windows. A spokesman for the restaurant said a list of all local 24-hour pharmacies was kept in case anyone needed it.

Last March, the society's council consulted the Department of Health on ways of forcing the owners to change the name, but Ms Sharpe said these discussions had not produced any alternative solution.

"The council's overriding concern is that members of the public can always be confident that, where they see the pharmacy sign, they can obtain a professional pharmacy service and bona fide medicines," she said. "Our efforts to persuade the owners of this business to respond to the public interest in this matter have so far failed."

The restaurant, owned by Hirst, multi-millionaire public

relations executive, Matthew Freud, and Jonathan Kennedy, a former public relations executive, could face a £1,000 fine if found guilty of unauthorised use of the title.

"We don't mind the restaurant having a medical theme, but what we want to do is avoid opening the floodgates. The law is there to prevent shops like drugstores calling themselves pharmacies," Ms Sharpe said.

A spokeswoman for Pharmacy said she could not comment on the prosecution until taking legal advice. "We are meeting with our lawyers tomorrow morning," she said.



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سكان الامل

Alarm over BBC's £1bn war chest

RICHARD EYRE, the ITV chief executive, yesterday called for the National Audit Office and the Office of Fair Trading to scrutinise the BBC, as it emerged that the corporation is stockpiling a £1bn fund for digital services.

Next week the BBC is expected to announce that it will instigate more savings and efficiencies over the next five years to raise £200m a year to spend on developing digital television.

To date, the corporation has spent nearly £100m on new services for digital, including the rolling news channel News 24 and its Internet service, BBC On-line.

The corporation will present its annual report and accounts next Wednesday in much greater detail than in previous years, to counteract criticism that it is not open or accountable to its "effective shareholders" - the licence-fee payers.

Its commercial arm, BBC Worldwide, which has been accused of using licence-fee revenue to fund commercial activities, will present its independently audited accounts for the first time.

BBC executives will open up the results to the public by making presentations to Parliament, representatives of listeners and viewers and minority interest groups such as disabled or aged. The BBC chairman, Sir Christopher Bland, will also conduct an "on-line chat" with members of the public via the BBC's website. A spokesman said: "To help counter these charges and to be more obvious in the

BY JANINE GIBSON
Media Correspondent

way we do things, we are making further efforts to make our accounting more transparent by publishing financial information on the level of a public limited company."

Mr Eyre said yesterday: "ITV welcomes the BBC's intentions to demonstrate a commitment to more transparency. This is timely, since on evidence to date - for example last year's report and accounts - ITV believes the BBC's commercial operations lack accounting transparency."

He went on to call for the BBC to be put under "more independent regulatory scrutiny" by the National Audit Office, the Office of Fair Trading and the Independent Television Commission, which regulates commercial broadcasters.

Inside the BBC, however, staff who already believe they are working under pressure to cut programme budgets too far will be more concerned over the promise of further "efficiencies" to raise digital funds.

A BBC spokesman acknowledged yesterday that further cuts in BBC spending will not come easily. He said: "It'll be hard won work to find that money - our cash reserve is standing at £300 million, which is our war chest." The reserve has come largely from the sale of BBC transmission services last year for £244m and is boosted by a £180m windfall from an above-inflation rise in the licence fee.

It also emerged yesterday that the newly ennobled BBC

Director-General, Sir John Birt, received a pay increase of nearly 9 per cent last year, taking his remuneration to just under £390,000 - in contrast to the average 4 per cent rise of the rest of the 22,500 staff.

The BBC technicians' union, Bectu, questioned the further cuts. Spokesman Gerry Morrissey said: "The programme departments are already under immense pressure on budgets and therefore I see no possibility of their making further savings." He added that the union congratulated Mr Birt on his 9 per cent rise, as union members would be asking the corporation for the same amount next week.



John Birt, newly ennobled and newly enriched BBC Director-General, whose 9 per cent pay rise takes him to £390,000 Peter Macdiarmid

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Jewish line traced back to Moses

A STUDY of Jewish men has found evidence to support the Old Testament account of how Aaron, the brother of Moses, fathered a line of priestly descendants.

Scientists who analysed the genes of more than 300 Jewish males believe they can detect a common ancestry of present-day Jews who claim to be the direct descendants of Aaron.

According to Jewish tradition, the priests who served in the Temple of Solomon following the Exodus from Egypt were Aaron's male descendants and are given the name Cohanim, which has become the surname Cohen.

In Old Testament times, the high priest led a hierarchy, at the bottom of which was the Cohanim caste whose members took turns in serving in the Temple before it was destroyed in 586BC. If present-day male Cohens really are direct descendants of a single man - Aaron - this should show up in the genes of their Y chromosome.

The male descendants of Moses also had special religious responsibility and they were known as the Levites. The geneticists attempted to see whether present-day Cohanim and Levites really did have a common ancestor who lived between 2,000 to 3,000 years ago.

David Goldstein, lecturer in evolutionary biology at Oxford University, studied the male Y chromosome - inherited only from fathers - of 306 Jewish men for genetic features indicating a common male ancestor.

He compared Jewish men who did not claim to be members of either the Levites or Cohanim with those who claimed to be descended by word of mouth from one or other of the two priestly lines. "Being Jew-

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

ish depends on having a Jewish mother but being a priest depends upon having a father who is a priest. The genetics are not inconsistent with the oral tradition of father-son inheritance of priestly status," Mr Goldstein said.

Professor Peter Goodfellow, a human geneticist at SmithKline Beecham, said yesterday: "The new analysis does tend to support the oral tradition of the inheritance of the priestly line."

The study, reported in the journal *Nature*, found that the Y chromosome genes of Jewish men supported the idea that the Cohanim are separately descended from the rest of the Jews, although this was not the case for the Levites.

Mr Goldstein said that the common ancestry of the Cohens was not merely the result of a group of people coming together under the same surname a few hundred years ago. "We show that although Levite Y chromosomes are diverse, the Cohanim chromosomes are homogeneous. We trace the origin of the Cohanim chromosomes to about 3,000 years before present, early during the Temple period," the researchers report.

The research found that the genetic "signature" of the Cohanim line was similar in the two main groups of European Jews, the Sephardic Jews of southern Europe and the Ashkenazi Jews of Eastern Europe. This indicates that the Cohens derive from a common ancestor dating back to before these two groups diverged many centuries ago, suggesting that the priestly Cohanim originated during the Temple period of Jewish history.

BIDISHA

"There is a huge gap between selling The Big Issue for a pittance, and feeling strong enough to put your life together"

— THE THURSDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4 →



How red ants brought new life to a blue butterfly

SIR DAVID Attenborough made an expedition yesterday to see a beast brought back from extinction in deepest Somerset.

There was no jungle for the celebrated naturalist to fight his way through, but there was the same intense pleasure when he finally saw his quarry - the Large Blue butterfly, which died out in Britain in 1978.

For 15 years, attempts have been made to reintroduce it, and yesterday the charity Butterfly Conservation, which is managing the reintroduction programme, and the chemicals company ICI, which is sponsoring its work, showed off some of the progress which is being made.

On a grassy slope owned by the Somerset Wildlife Trust on the side of a limestone hill, dotted with the yellow of bird's-foot trefoil and the purple of wild thyme, Sir David and a group of invited conservationists saw the brilliant deep-blue wings of one of the rarest living things in Britain flashing in the sunlight. "It's quite delectable to see it," he said.

The Large Blue went extinct

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

in Britain because it has the strangest and most specialised life-cycle of any butterfly. It is the cuckoo of the insect world - persuading red ants, as a caterpillar, to take it into their nests and bring it up as an ant grub. It then proceeds to eat the raw ant grubs for nearly a year, before leaving a confused ants' nest behind and emerging for its short life in the open air.

The relationship between ants and butterfly was discovered in the early years of this century, but it was not until the 1970s that a more important discovery was made - the British Large Blue depends entirely on only one of the half dozen red ant species, *Myrmica sabuleti*, so obscure it does not even have a common name in English.

Myrmica sabuleti only flourishes where turf is short enabling the sun to warm the ground underneath. But changing farming practices and a crash of the rabbit population caused by myxomatosis meant that short grazed turf was disappearing, and with it the ants,



The Large Blue butterfly (above) and (top left) being examined by Sir David Attenborough yesterday Tom Pilsdon

and with them the butterfly.

The discovery came too late to save the Large Blue but the man who made it - Britain's leading butterfly expert, Jeremy Thomas - put all his knowledge to work in the programme to rescue it from extinction.

The Large Blue has been reintroduced now on seven sites which are grazed to the right thickness of turf by sheep

and cattle. It is firmly established on "four or five" said Mr Thomas of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology.

In Somerset yesterday, he showed Sir David the Large Blue's tiny white eggs, smaller than a pin head, on the flowers of wild thyme, its food plant, and then, one after the other, three examples of the butterfly itself - bred in Britain and back from

extinction. "There are a lot of rare things, but this is rare and beautiful," Sir David said. "It's very typical of British natural history. It's not a big flashy tropical over-the-top beast. It's modest and quiet and displays its charms to those who approach it properly."

Between 250 and 500 adult Large Blues have emerged on

the Somerset site this year, Mr Thomas said, and about 12,000 eggs have been laid.

He was relieved his distinguished visitor had seen the animal and he was relieved also that they had appeared at all this year.

"All the scientific evidence said there would be a reasonably good emergence," he said. "But I still worry about it."

'Buxom wenches' get BMA blessing

MODEL AGENCIES and television companies are to be asked to make more use of buxom women to counter the rise in anorexia among young girls.

The British Medical Association yesterday urged advertisers and casting directors to reduce the use of waif-like models because they sent the wrong message to young people that only one body shape was desirable or attractive.

Doctors' leaders said they would be contacting editors and television producers once they had gathered evidence to show how images of super-slim models were contributing to a major social and medical problem.

Dr Muriel Broome, from west Berkshire, told the BMA's annual conference in Cardiff that in predisposed girls, constant exposure to images of very thin models could encourage eating disorders. "I urge the media to be more responsible and to show more buxom wenches," she said.

Dr Ian Bogle, a GP from Liverpool and one of the BMA's most senior figures, described the devastating effect of the condition on his own family as the weight of one of his daughters dropped from nine stone to five stone. "We felt disbelief, helplessness and guilt. In our case it lasted five years. But we got lucky - our family is still intact and the sufferer is now apparently cured."

Speaking to reporters later, Dr Bogle, who has been married 37 years, said the problem had begun when his daughter was in her twenties. "In searching for the roots of the illness the whole family goes under the

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

microscope. You wake up in the morning and it's the first thing you think about and you go to bed thinking about it."

He said his medical training had been no use and his failure to find an explanation for the illness had left him in despair. His daughter was eventually treated in a specialised centre for anorexia. "I was not a doctor then. I was a father. I am eternally grateful for the care that got us through this."

Dr Bogle, who is a candidate to be the next leader of the BMA in today's election for chairman of its council, said constant images of slim women in the media aggravated the difficulties for families such as his. "When you are in the position we were in this is a contributing factor that makes things considerably worse."

Dr Vivienne Nathanson, head of policy and research at the BMA, said the key message for young people was that there was no ideal shape and it was important they felt comfortable in their own bodies. "Being acutely thin is more dangerous than being overweight," she said.

The association voted to examine motions calling for smoking to be banned in public places and cycle helmets to be made compulsory. Speakers noted that banning smoking at the seaside and up mountains would be impractical and a law introduced in Australia making cycle helmets compulsory had led to a sharp drop in the numbers of people cycling and a net health loss to the population.

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Crop experts linked to biotech firms

THE GOVERNMENT'S advisers on genetically engineered crops should be sacked because too many have close links to the biotech industry, environmentalists said yesterday.

Friends of the Earth (FoE) said that 8 of the 13-strong Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (AcRe) have ties with companies or organisations involved in carrying out crop trials or other genetic engineering research.

Members of AcRe are the

BY LOUISE JURY

Government's statutory advisers on allowing genetically modified crops to be planted in the countryside. They have so far passed more than 150 applications without any refusals.

Although panel members do not vote on any application in which they have a personal interest, Adrian Bebb, FoE's food campaigner, said the process was flawed.

"How can people have con-

fidence in the government advisory panel when so many members have close financial links to the biotech industry?"

Three-quarters of the public did not want genetically altered food, Mr Bebb said. Earlier this week English Nature, the Government's wildlife advisers, asked for a moratorium on commercial production of engineered crops. "Yet the Government is still allowing this Frankenstein industry to drive ahead," he said.

FoE called for all members of AcRe, including one representing green interests, to be sacked and a new panel appointed.

Among those on the panel are Professor Nigel Poole of Zeneca Plant Science, a biotech company, and Dr David Robinson, a scientist who also advises a seed company.

Dr Philip Dale heads a department that focuses on the genetic engineering of oilseed rape, according to the details

compiled by FoE from AcRe members' declared interests.

Professor John Beringer, the chairman, is a member of the National Environmental Research Council, which has five test sites of its own. John Macleod heads the National Institute of Agricultural Botany, which is running seed trials. Dr Ingrid Williams works for the Institute of Arable Crop Research, which has three test sites.

Dr Ian Garland is an assistant director of research at

PPL Therapeutics, whose work led to the birth of Dolly the cloned sheep, and Professor David Onions is a consultant to a biotech company.

Professor Beringer said: "In 11 years as chairman, I have never once been subject to pressure either from industry or from politicians." He said the research council of which he is a member was carrying out research on the risks of genetic modification. He received no pecuniary advantages.

Professor Poole, an academic scientist before joining Zeneca, said it was insulting to accuse AcRe's members of being biased. "There are scientists all the way round the world ... all reviewing the same sort of data and coming to the same sort of conclusions," he said.

Science took precedence over commercial interests, he added. "It is a very ethical and hard-working committee which tries to do its best."

A Department of the Envi-

ronment spokesman said there were no plans to change AcRe. All members' interests were made public in its annual report. AcRe's current three-year term ends in June.

Guy Watson, an organic farmer from Devon, is seeking a judicial review at the High Court today over genetically engineered maize being grown next to his farm. He fears there is a risk of cross-pollination, which would jeopardise his land's organic status.

I was betrayed by MoD, says Briton facing execution

"SOMETIMES I wake up in the night and feel as if I am trapped in a Monty Python sketch. But then I realise it's all for real and I am still in jail in Calcutta, as I have been for the past two and a half years."

Peter Bleach, a 46-year-old small-time arms dealer from North Yorkshire, is on trial in the "city of dreadful night", charged with "abetting the waging of war against India".

It is a very serious charge, comparable to treason. If he is found guilty, the minimum sentence is life imprisonment, while the maximum is death by hanging.

Mr Bleach was arrested in Bombay in December 1995 after the plane he was flying in, crewed by five Latvians who are on trial with him, had dropped a large consignment of arms into the countryside in Punjab, in northern India. The consignment included AK-47s, rocket launchers, anti-tank grenades and ammunition.

The weapons were supposedly intended for a cranky Hindu sect called Ananda Marg, which portrays itself as benign and humanitarian, but which has been in dispute with the Communist government of West Bengal over land for many years. The organisation's key man in Europe, a

BY PETER POPHAM
in Calcutta

shadowy figure known as "Kim Davy", has since gone to ground.

Mr Bleach has never denied that he was involved in the arms drop, but he is pleading not guilty. According to him, the arms drops was a sting that went wrong; he had informed the authorities long in advance that it was going to happen, and, far from being a criminal, he is himself the victim of official treachery.

Mr Bleach is a former officer in British intelligence who served in Belfast and Africa. After leaving the Army he set up what he calls a "defence supply service". A military intelligence officer has described him as "an international bit of a bobs man" who "sailed too close to the wind".

According to Mr Bleach, the saga began in July 1995 when he was contacted by a Danish firm asking him for a quote to deliver four and a half tons of AK-47 rifles, ammunition and rocket-propelled grenades to an unknown destination in South Asia.

He flew to Copenhagen but soon realised, in his own words, that "it was anything but a legitimate arms deal. It

was clearly on behalf of some terrorist group."

He says that on his return to Britain, he immediately notified the Ministry of Defence's Export Service Organisation and told them about the terrorist deal. MoD officials and Special Branch officers have claimed they then advised Mr Bleach not to go ahead with the deal. Mr Bleach has always maintained that he was actually encouraged to persist by the British authorities, in order to find out who the arms were meant for.

"My assumption was that the British would tell the Indian authorities right away. In fact, they didn't tell them until November [1995]," he told *The Independent*.

Mr Bleach realised going ahead with the deal was risky, but says there was no easy way out. "If I had dropped it like a hot potato and it had all come out in the open six months later, my phone and fax numbers would have been in the records," he said.

The last thing he meant to do, however, was to be on the plane when the arms were actually tossed out. "I had no intention of doing that," he said. "I went to Bulgaria as the agent for the sale of the plane - I had nothing to do with the



Peter Bleach emerges from Purulia magistrates' court, where judges ordered he be detained for another week.

Bikas Das

sale of the arms - but once there, 'Kim Davy' made it clear he was not letting me out of his sight until the job was done. I'm in Bulgaria, I haven't got winter clothes, I don't know anyone there - it's obvious I can't distance myself from

it until I am out of Bulgaria." The trial finally got under way in March, but progress has been painfully slow. In the grim and shabby courtroom, with a concrete floor and flaking blue paint on the walls, the electric fans make so

much noise that the proceedings are practically inaudible. In any case, half the time the proceedings are in Bengali. The Latvians are locked in a cage at the back like monkeys, where they grind their teeth in frustration. But Mr Bleach,

who is defending himself, cuts a cheery, good-humoured figure, tall and crisp in a white safari suit, laughing along with the rest of the court as witnesses tie themselves in knots. At Independence, Indian judges renounced their gavels

along with their wigs, and much of the hearing is a babble of contention between defence, prosecution and judge.

Some years down the road, Peter Bleach can look forward to having the opportunity to explain himself.

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New head of troubled special hospital is forced to leave

IN THE latest controversy to hit scandal-ridden Ashworth Special Hospital, its chief executive has left her post after "irretrievable" disagreements with her staff.

Dr Hilary Hodge had been at the hospital, which has been the subject of an inquiry into allegations of paedophilia and pornography, for less than 10 months. Her departure follows furious rows with the psychiatrists there, a dozen of whom threatened to resign if Dr Hodge did not leave.

They argued over management style and accused her of

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

interfering in clinical matters after she appointed as head of therapy a former Parkhurst Prison psychiatrist, Dr Robert Johnson. They were also unhappy about the decision to let a Channel 4 film crew in and in May they passed a motion of no confidence in her.

A month earlier, Dame Fiona Caldicott, a former president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, was called in to investigate the areas of disagreement between Dr Hodge, 51, and

consultants at the Merseyside Hospital. This is now finished, and Paul Lever, chairman of Ashworth Hospital Authority, said that it had been agreed that Dr Hodge should "step aside" from yesterday.

Dr Hodge, a former dentist, joined the hospital in September last year, seven months after the former Secretary of State for Health, Stephen Dorrell ordered a public inquiry into the running of the hospital's personality disorder unit. This followed allegations of possible paedophile activity involving a young girl, drug and alcohol

misuse, financial irregularities and the availability of pornography on the unit.

The claims were made by former Ashworth patient Stephen Daggett, who absconded while on an escorted shopping trip to Liverpool.

Yesterday's announcement was welcomed by consultant psychiatrists at Ashworth. Dr Patricia Abbott, acting chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee at Ashworth Hospital Authority, said it vindicated their position.

Dr Hodge will work for the World Health Organisation.

'Belt up in back' ads aim to shock

A GOVERNMENT campaign to get car passengers to "belt up in the back" was launched yesterday after figures showed that half those travelling in the rear do not wear seatbelts.

Some £750,000 has been spent on television, radio and poster adverts. The television commercial shows a schoolboy crushing his mother to death as he is propelled into the driver's seat after an accident. The last image is that of the blood-splattered teenager slumped in his seat. The advert was considered too strong for younger audiences and will not be shown during children's programmes.

Ministers say that a "no-nonsense" message was needed. Baroness Hayman, the roads minister, said: "When a crash occurs at 30mph an un-

BY RANDEEP RAMESH
Transport Correspondent

belted rear-seat passenger is thrown forward with a force of around three and half tonnes. Yet 120 unbelted back-seat passengers are killed each year."

The Government estimates that a further 40 front-seat passengers are killed by unbelted people being thrown forward in a crash.

Police said they would put "increased emphasis" on enforcing the law, which since 1991 has made it illegal not to wear a seatbelt in cars fitted with them. Officers can issue £20 fines to passengers not wearing their belt but many are simply cautioned. The law is often flouted - in 1996 153,000 fixed-penalty notices were issued.

STEVE RICHARDS

"In a neat and sinister symmetry, the media obsessives in the Government now have the people who write for the newspapers"

— THE THURSDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4

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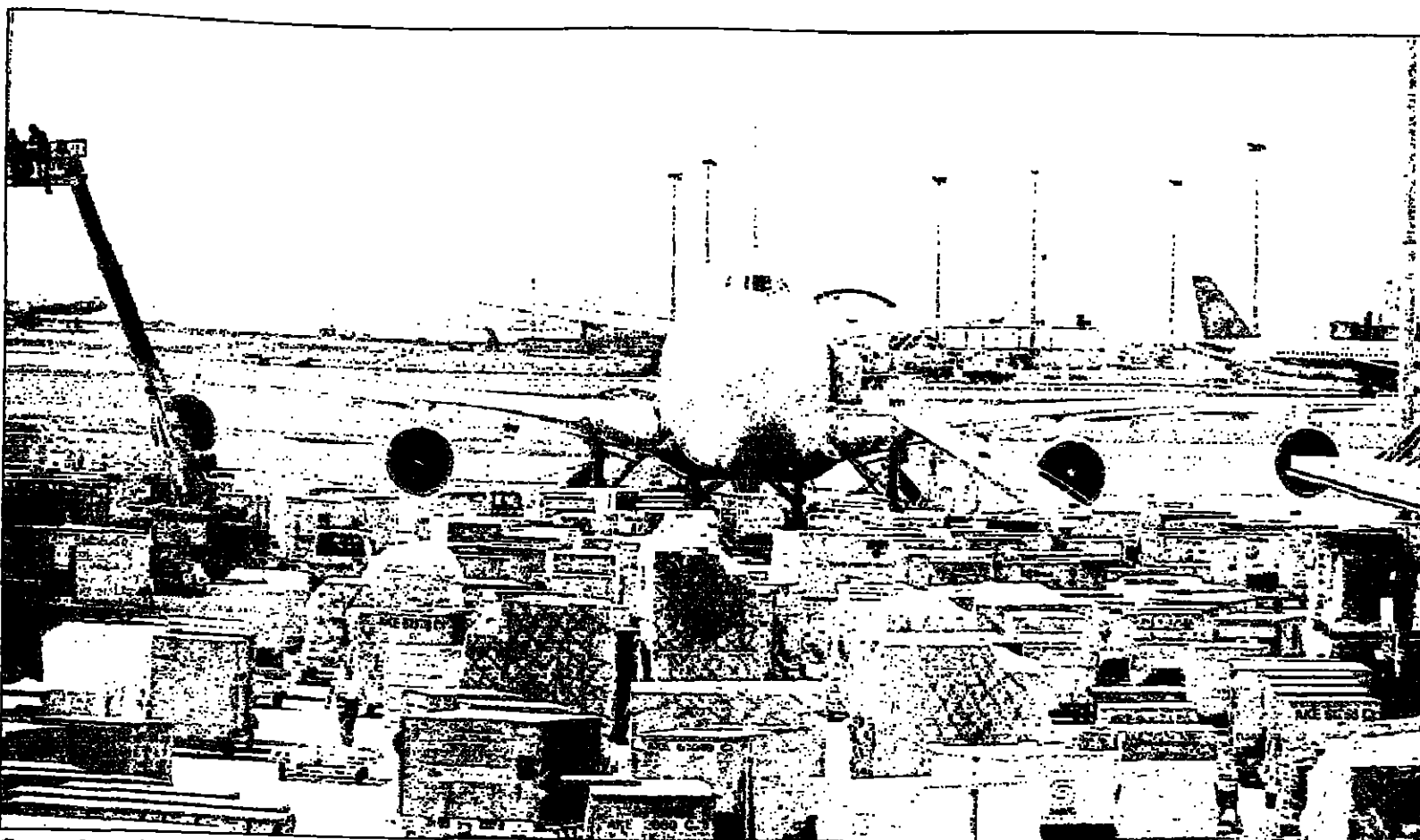
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Cargo cluttering the apron at Hong Kong's new airport as staff struggled to rectify computer bugs and other problems yesterday Reuters

Hong Kong's showpiece humiliated

HONG KONG'S hi-tech £12.4bn new airport has got off to a humiliating start, with cargo being sent back to the old airport to be sorted and loaded.

The cargo debacle is only the worst of a number of teething problems which have hit the airport since it opened last Monday. Baggage-handling delays, breakdowns in the flight-information service and myriad glitches in air-conditioning and water-supply systems have turned what was intended to be the showpiece of the new Hong Kong into a nightmare, according to the *Hong Kong Economic Times*.

Meetings were held yesterday to see what could be done

BY STEPHEN VINES
in Hong Kong

to fix a computer failure which has halted the cargo system. The main cargo handlers had to place a 24-hour embargo on new cargo movements, except for emergency supplies. Yesterday it was extended and handlers said all the sorting was returning to the old airport at Kai Tak.

Buck-passing and baying for blood were much in evidence as the airport authorities insisted they had done their job perfectly well, but were being let down by the contractors.

The contractors said they had been forced to start oper-

ations at the airport before they were ready to move there. Politicians have spotted a bandwagon and were scrambling aboard yesterday with accusations and suggestions.

Mounds of rotten fruit, vegetables, fish and meat are building up inside the terminals, awaiting sorting. Passengers are missing connecting flights because of baggage problems and PR men are popping up as if by magic.

The government, which saw the airport as a symbol of what Hong Kong can achieve, is again showing there is something lacking in its crisis-management skills. Yesterday Sir Donald Tsang, the Financial

Secretary who used to chair the airport authority, admitted the new technology was "a bit unlucky" and that the computer "had a little bit of a problem". As he was speaking the "little problem" was generating large amounts of anger.

Clinton Leeks, the airport's senior spokesman, said "teething problems" would be over by next week, though he did not make any promises.

The passenger service was, however, showing signs of improvement yesterday. The airport said the waiting time for bags had been reduced to an average of 30 minutes.

The only real solace the authorities might be able to gain is that the situation was even more chaotic when Malaysia's new Kuala Lumpur International Airport opened for business a week earlier.

Bibi stalls on West Bank withdrawal

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU, the Israeli Prime Minister, said yesterday that no agreement had been reached with the United States over a limited Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank. He said that the two sides did not agree on the size of the pull-back, changes in the Palestinian charter or the extradition of 33 Palestinians wanted in Israel.

The Israeli leader spoke after a meeting of the Israeli inner Cabinet had failed to reach an agreement on an Israeli withdrawal from 13 per cent of the West Bank, which is proposed by the US and has been accepted by the Palestinians. Taken at face value, Mr Netanyahu's statement suggests that he does not believe he will come under serious American pressure to implement the Oslo accords.

Earlier puffs of smoke from the Prime Minister's office in Jerusalem, the Defence Ministry in Tel Aviv and the State Department in Washington suggested that an agreement might be reached by the end of the month. Mr Netanyahu said it was near Yitzhak Mordechai, the Defence Minister, said re-

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Jerusalem

deployment could come "within days". Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, said: "I think we are coming closer. If we weren't coming closer, we would try a different track."

The Palestinian position is that they reached an agreement on an Israeli pull-out with the previous Israeli government in 1995 and are not going to see it modified by Mr Netanyahu now. Saeb Erekat, a chief Palestinian negotiator, says: "If he thinks that we will go back to negotiate with him on the package he is mistaken."

For two years the Israeli leader has correctly calculated that he can put enough pressure on President Bill Clinton by mobilising the Jewish community in the US to prevent the White House insisting on the implementation of agreements already reached. Mr Netanyahu's conditions are seen by diplomats as excuses for stalling. The Palestinian charter, which Mr Netanyahu claims still calls for the destruction of Israel, was altered in 1996 through US mediation.

Even if Israel does withdraw from 13 per cent from the West Bank, more than half of it will remain under Israeli control. The 1.5 million Palestinians will continue to live in enclaves which they cannot leave without Israeli permission and where standards of living have fallen 30 per cent in the last five years. General Mordechai says that a pull-back would take 12 weeks to carry out.

The Israeli President, Ezer Weizman, last week called for fresh elections in Israel, but there is little sign that Mr Netanyahu feels under serious pressure. In the meantime, Israel is pushing ahead with road construction throughout the West Bank, which is slicing up the Palestinian enclaves. The best road between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv now runs through the West Bank. This is being extended to the Dead Sea.

Some Israeli analysts say that the US would do better to declare the "peace process" dead and blame Mr Netanyahu. They say that this would prevent him telling Israeli voters that he supports Oslo and is just trying to get a better deal than the previous government.

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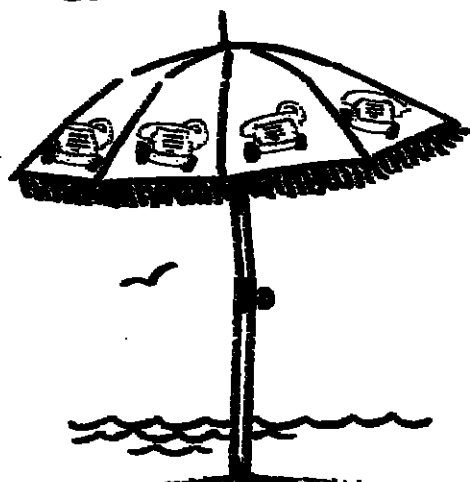
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Abiola's death tears Nigeria apart

NIGERIA SEEMED to be slipping into an abyss of violence yesterday after the death on Tuesday of Moshood Abiola, the country's best known political prisoner and perceived winner of elections in 1993.

Nineteen people were reported to have been killed in clashes between police and protesters in Lagos, following the news of Abiola's death.

The Nigerian leader, Abdulsalam Abubakar, dissolved his cabinet, though the core of the ruling military junta was left intact.

The military administrator of Lagos state appealed for calm as police used tear gas to break up the protests. Stacks of old tyres were set alight on roads.

The unrest also spread to the southern university town of Ibadan and to Abiola's home town, Abeokuta, north of Lagos.

Many Nigerians remain deeply sceptical about the circumstances of Abiola's death. "You who killed Abiola will pay for what you have done,"

BY STEVE CRAWSHAW

crowds chanted yesterday as police fired shots in the air.

The 60-year-old suddenly became ill during a meeting with visiting United States diplomats, and died shortly afterwards. The death was officially said to be from a heart attack. It followed just weeks after the death of the military leader, General Sani Abacha, also from a reported heart attack.

General Abubakar, Abacha's successor, had appeared to herald a more liberal set of policies. The United Nations secretary-general, Kofi Annan, met Abiola last week and announced that he was about to be freed. But Abiola's mysterious death destroyed much of the optimism of recent weeks.

Abiola's funeral was originally scheduled to take place yesterday, but was then postponed to allow an autopsy. His family said yesterday that independent autopsies will be carried out by pathologists

from Britain, Canada, and the US. The nominated British pathologist is Richard Shepherd, from St George's Hospital, London.

Tony Blair offered Abiola's son, Kola Abiola, "personal condolences and those of the British people following the untimely death of your father". He hoped that the post-mortem examination would "allow your father the dignity in death that he was denied in the last years of his life."

The US special envoy to Nigeria, former ambassador Thomas Pickering, called yesterday for the "immediate" release of all political prisoners, as a condition for the lifting of sanctions. He called, too, for a "rapid, smooth, open, free and fair transition to civilian democratic rule".

A human rights group reported that it had warned the military regime of Abiola's failing health four weeks before his death. Mr Pickering said he had seen "no evidence that there was any reason to believe he had died of unnatural causes". But his family appeared to disagree. Abiola's daughter, Wuru, said: "Of all the conditions he

had, heart was not one of them." Another daughter, Hafsat, said: "It was too convenient. All of a sudden at the eve of his release, he dies."

Since the execution of the environmental activist and writer Ken Saro-Wiwa in 1995, Nigeria has been under strong international pressure to implement reforms. Nigeria was suspended from the Commonwealth and partial sanctions were imposed. General Abacha, however, was unbowed in the face of the international pressure. After his death there appeared to be some hope of

change. A number of political prisoners have been released in recent weeks and Abiola's allegedly proposed release would undoubtedly have eased the pressure further.

Western politicians have been eager to seize on signs that reform was on its way, in a country where elections have frequently been promised and endlessly postponed. Nigeria has had only 10 years of civilian rule since independence was obtained from Britain in 1960.

The deal proposed by the authorities for Abiola's release was that he should renounce

his claim to be the rightful president. Opposition activists were unhappy that the West appeared ready to go along with those demands.

"For five years we pleaded, begged and cajoled the international community to take meaningful steps to secure the release of this man. They refused," Bolaji Akinyemi, spokesman for the Nadejo opposition coalition, said yesterday.

"I suppose we are now going to get crocodile tears being shed from London, from Washington, from Paris."

Opposition activists are pes-

simistic about the prospects for Nigeria now. Kayode Fayemi, a leading opposition spokesman in London, said: "We suspect very much that this [disorder] is going to spread... I am worried the government is going to manipulate it into civil war."

But Chief Emeke Anyaoku, secretary-general of the Commonwealth, said he had spoken to General Abubakar and was confident that he was "determined to usher in democracy". Mr Anyaoku said argued: "If this is not handled properly, Nigeria may be in for very severe trouble."

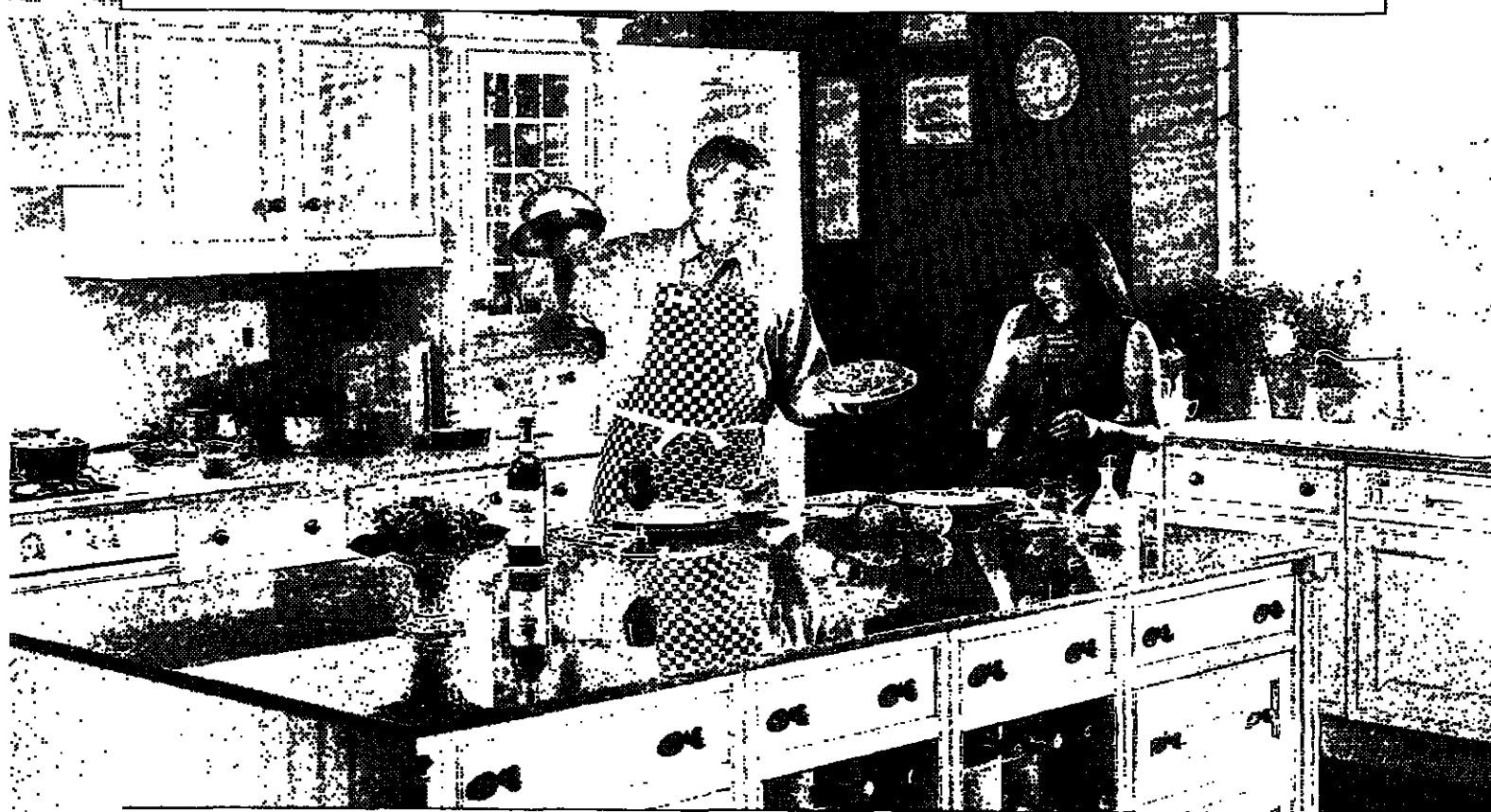


Nigerians angry at the death in prison of Moshood Abiola run from clashes with police in Lagos yesterday. Sixteen people died in the unrest

Seydou Diallo/AFP

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Big powers draw up peace deal for Kosovo

AS FIERCE new fighting was reported in Kosovo, the major powers abruptly changed tack last night and announced they would present both sides with a blueprint for a peace settlement in the Serbian province.

Details of the plan, discussed by senior officials of the six-nation Contact Group at a meeting in Bonn, were kept secret - but the parameters are clear.

The Contact powers - Britain, the US, Germany, France, Italy and Russia - continue to rule out the full independence demanded by the Kosovo Albanians who account for 90 per cent of the population. They insist however that Slobodan Milosevic, the Yugoslav President, must grant wide autonomy to the province, where at least 300 people have been killed in fighting since February.

The two main options, one or other of which seems bound to form the basis of any solution,

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

are the elevation of Kosovo to the rank of "third republic" alongside Serbia and Montenegro in what remains of the former Yugoslavia, or the restoration of the autonomy Mr Milosevic took away in 1989.

Simultaneously the Contact powers are demanding action to stop Albanian groups abroad sending money and weapons to the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) - the ethnic Albanian guerrilla force which controls an estimated 30 per cent of the province. They also are considering a United Nations resolution threatening "all parties to the conflict" with punishment if the violence continues.

All of the above represents a major switch of strategy by the big powers, who have hitherto treated Mr Milosevic as the sole villain of the piece, imposing sanctions and demanding

the withdrawal of his security forces as the first step to a political settlement.

Now they seek merely a ceasefire, and recognise the KLA as an equal force to the elected Kosovo Albanian leader, Ibrahim Rugova, who also advocates independence, but by peaceful means. Yesterday's statement remarks on the "restraint" displayed of late by Serbian forces, the nearest thing to praise they have received since the crisis erupted.

But huge obstacles remain. The KLA leadership is not united, and the influence of Mr Rugova, the Contact powers' preferred candidate, has been undermined by the KLA's recent military successes. Finally, there is the continuing violence. According to Albanian sources, Serb police killed at least five separatists yesterday in fighting near Morina, 50 miles south-west of Pristina.

War criminals 'roam free'

A NEW YORK-based human rights watchdog yesterday said the Bosnian Serb town of Foca lived in "fear and intimidation", and claimed war crimes suspects and alleged architects of "ethnic cleansing" were roaming freely there.

Human Rights Watch said six war criminals indicted by the United Nations tribunal for genocide lived in the town and that people believed to have orchestrated the murder and

BY NEDIM DERVISBEGOVIC in Sarajevo

expulsion of non-Serbs in the region still held government posts.

Foca, 50 miles south-east of Sarajevo, had an ethnically mixed population of about 40,000 before the 1992-95 Bosnian war. The town became almost entirely Serb after at least 20,000 Muslims were killed or expelled early in the war. The report said prominent

members of a "crisis committee", which co-ordinated arrests, detention, rape and murder of non-Serbs in Foca during the war, still held positions in both the Bosnian parliament and the Bosnian Serb government.

These include Petar Cancar, now Minister of Justice in Bosnia's Serb republic, and Veljko Ostojic, who chairs the Bosnian parliament's Commission on Human Rights.

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Race divide: Australia risks a black backlash by confirming farmers' rights, but New Zealand tries to make amends

Aborigines lose fight for native lands

THE AUSTRALIAN Senate finally passed the government's controversial land rights legislation yesterday, as Aborigines and their supporters shouted "shame" from the public gallery. The passage of the Bill reduces the grim prospect of a racially divisive general election, though the chances of a constitutional challenge to the law from Aboriginal groups looks certain.

John Howard, the Prime Minister leading the conservative coalition government, celebrated the Bill's passage as a "very good outcome" which would "allow Australians to feel good about themselves".

Aboriginal leaders dismissed this claim and predicted an international campaign against the legislation which they argue breaches Australia's human rights obligations.

"This is being defined as a turning point in black and white relations in this country," said Aden Ridgeway, of the National Indigenous Working Group on Native Title. "It turns the clock back more than three decades." Aborigines, he said, had been sold out, because the legislation left them with a real say over only 5 per cent of Australia's land mass.

Mr Howard had wrestled with this legislation for more than 18 months, since the country's high court delivered a landmark judgment late in 1996. That ruling, in a case launched by the Wik people of north Queensland, found that Aboriginal native title rights could co-exist with farming activities on the vast outback farming areas known as pastoral leases.

These leases were granted to farmers in the last century as a means of regulating the use of holdings many of which were the size of small countries. But the rights of Aboriginal

BY ROBERT MILLIKEN
in Sydney



John Howard: Australians 'can feel good'

communities who had roamed the land for tens of thousands of years were not then addressed.

In framing legislation to take account of the high court ruling, Mr Howard made it his goal to protect the interests of farmers and miners. He did not give in to farmers' demands for native title rights to be extinguished altogether, but severely limited the conditions under which Aborigines could make such claims.

The Bill that passed yesterday was a compromise from Mr Howard's original legislation which the Senate, the upper house of Australia's federal parliament, rejected earlier this year after it had passed the lower house. The compromise came about after Brian Harradine, an independent Senate MP holding the balance of power, agreed to do a deal with Mr Howard after having voted against the original Bill.

Mr Harradine justified his about-face by arguing that the general election Mr Howard had threatened to call if his legislation remained stalled would have torn the country apart and set race relations back half a

century. Mr Harradine was also spurred on to make his deal by the startling success in the Queensland state election last month of One Nation, the racially divisive party led by Pauline Hanson, which captured almost one-quarter of the state's vote.

If an early federal election had been called, as Mr Howard threatened, Mrs Hanson's party might have won enough Senate seats to give it the balance of power in the chamber, where she could have killed off any native title legislation.

The principal change that resulted from the Howard-Harradine deal is that the law now places the onus on Australia's state governments, rather than on the federal government in Canberra, to mediate between claims to pastoral land made by Aborigines and farmers.

The Aborigines have painted the outcome as a disaster. The state governments in Australia, especially the big states such as Western Australia and Queensland, where most of the farming land is held on pastoral leases, have been unsympathetic to Aboriginal interests in the past. They have taken a particularly poor view of any claims that appeared to interfere with economic development. It was partly to give Aborigines a "fair go" that Australians voted in a referendum in 1967 to hand responsibility for Aboriginal affairs from the states to the Commonwealth government in Canberra.

"Thirty-one years later we are seeing enormous amounts of power handed back to the states and territories," Mr Ridgeway said yesterday. "The history of our treatment at the hands of the states and territories does not leave us confident about the outcome." Comment, Review, page 5



Aborigines light a fire outside Canberra's Parliament buildings

Popperfoto

Maori win compulsory compensation

IN AN unprecedented move, the New Zealand government was yesterday ordered to return more than NZ\$6.1m (£2m) worth of land confiscated from its Maori owners more than 30 years ago.

The land was taken to make housing for workers on a construction project in the central North Island.

The binding order, from the government-appointed Waitangi Tribunal, comes after negotiations between Maori of

BY RAY LILLEY
in Wellington

the Ngati Turangitukua sub-tribe and the government failed to reach agreement.

It is the first time the tribunal has exercised its powers to make such compulsory recommendations.

The tribunal was established to resolve grievances by indigenous Maori over land confiscated, stolen or otherwise taken by the government and

its agencies since 1840. The land on which the Turangi hydro village stands was taken as headquarters for the labour force working on the Tongariro electric power project near Lake Taupo in the central North Island.

Some of the land involved has since been sold by the government to private owners.

When it took the land compulsorily from Maori, the government already owned land nearby that would have

been suitable, the tribunal confirmed.

The tribunal's ruling comes two years after a substantive report that found the sub-tribe's claim to the land was well founded and the government had breached several principles of the country's founding document, the Treaty of Waitangi.

The 1840 Treaty of Waitangi establishes British sovereignty over New Zealand in exchange for a promise to allow the Maori inhabitants to retain

"full possession" of their lands, forests, fisheries and other resources.

The tribunal had earlier recommended that the claimants and the government negotiate an outcome, but the parties failed to reach agreement.

As well as ordering the land returned, the tribunal recommended the government "make appropriate monetary compensation" of at least NZ\$1m (£350,000) to the claimants.

Jehovah's Witnesses pay a price for lack of cult status

THE END of the world is nigh. At the very least, bankruptcy threatens. The international headquarters of the Jehovah's Witnesses yesterday publicly appealed to the French President to intervene in a dispute between God and Mammon.

The French authorities are demanding £30m in back-taxes and fines from the French branch of the American-based evangelical and apocalyptic sect.

If the Témoins de Jéhovah do not pay up, the government is threatening to seize the Witnesses' property in France (Kingdom Halls, copies of the Watchtower, drab raincoats?).

The Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide, based in Brooklyn, New York, yesterday took out a full-page

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

advertisement in the *International Herald Tribune* to accuse the French tax authorities of a "shocking display of religious discrimination".

In an open letter to Jacques Chirac, the Witnesses' leader, L. A. Swingle, asked for the President's "support in removing this unjust and discriminatory tax... avoiding a dangerous threat to religious freedom and human rights in France".

The dispute arises from the refusal of the French government to recognise the Jehovah's Witnesses as a religious organisation.

Under the French tax law of

1992, cash gifts are taxed at 60 per cent. Only those recipients who are officially classified by the Interior Ministry as an "association cultuelle", or "culte", are exempt.

The French authorities have refused such status to the Witnesses, even though they claim to be, with 200,000 members, the third-largest Christian religion in the country. The Témoins de Jéhovah have an income of £5m a year, entirely collected from their devotees.

The tax authorities are demanding back-taxes and penalties amounting to five times their annual budget. French officials said yesterday that negotiations with the Witnesses and their lawyers were continuing.

The officials said the hard

line taken by the Interior Ministry was part of a policy of "reduced tolerance" of sects since the mass suicides of members of the Solar Temple in Switzerland and Canada in 1994, followed by 16 suicides in the French Alps in 1995.

The Jehovah's Witnesses retort that they have operated in France for a century without untoward events of this kind and without being made to pay a centime in tax.

Religious freedom, they point out, has been guaranteed in France since the Edict of Nantes, 400 years ago this year.

"Yet the tax authority believes it has the right to use its power of taxation arbitrarily to restrict some religions but not others," wrote Mr Swingle.

World's 'oldest church' is found

BY JAMAL HALABY
in Amman

AMUD brick basilica unearthed in the Red Sea resort of Aqaba may be the oldest church in Jordan, and possibly the oldest building in the world that was designed to be used as a church, archaeologists say.

"There is a real possibility that it is a church built in the late third century, but we need to study our find closely before we come out with a resolute conclusion," Sawsan Fakhri, director of the Aqaba Antiquities Department, said.

Until last month's discovery in Aqaba, near a bus station surrounded by hotels overlooking the sea, the earliest churches in Jordan were thought to date to the late fourth century.

For Mr Fakhri and other archaeologists, the building is significant even if it does not prove to be the world's oldest

church, as it is a starting point in the succession of Roman, Byzantine and Islamic civilisations along the Red Sea.

Older churches have been found elsewhere, but they were constructed and used as houses before being converted to churches.

"If the Aqaba [building] does in fact prove to date to the late third century, it would be not only the oldest church in Jordan, but (also the oldest) in the world designed and built as a church," said Thomas Parker, a history professor at North Carolina State University. He is leading the 53 Jordanian and American archaeologists and historians excavating the site.

Diggers also found splintered glass that looked like the remains of oil lamps commonly used to illuminate churches in the early Christian era. It is thought the mud-brick building was buried by desert sand during an earthquake in 363.

Protests spread across Indonesia

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

DEMONSTRATIONS and riots continued across Indonesia yesterday, as troops in the jungle province of Irian Jaya seized flags raised by separatist protesters.

On Tuesday, some 3,000 tribal people, carrying bows and arrows, occupied a government building in the town of Wamena and demanded independence from Jakarta.

Yesterday, according to diplomats, Indonesian soldiers foiled the latest attempts to hoist a flag representing the independent state of West Papua.

The former Dutch colony, consisting of the western part of the island of New Guinea, was annexed by Jakarta in 1969 and renamed Irian Jaya.

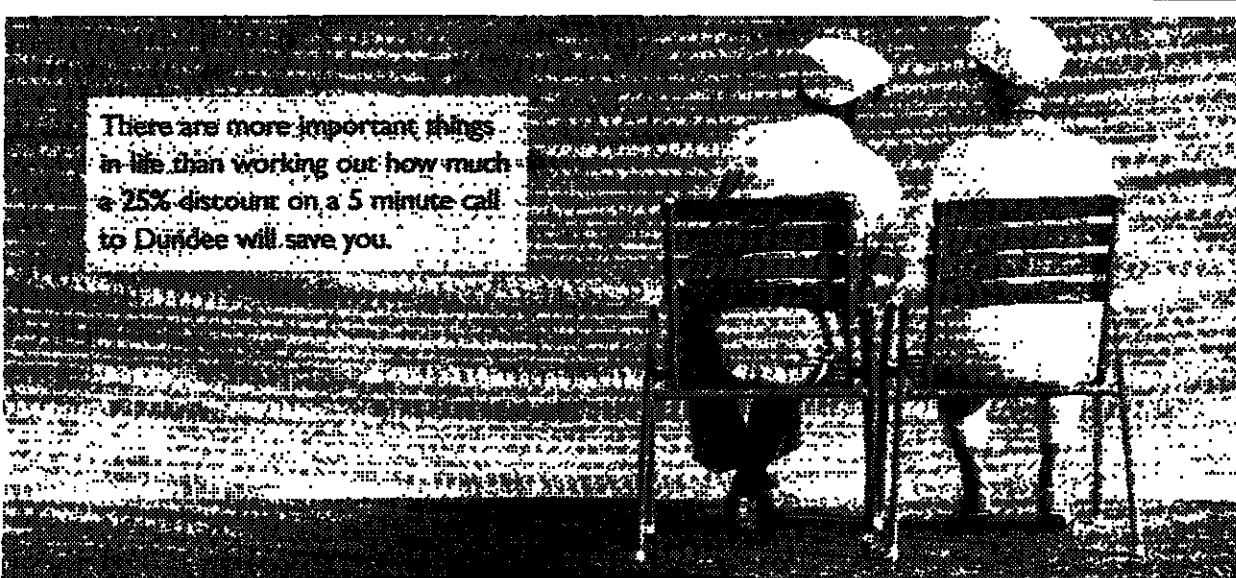
Seven people were reported on Tuesday to have been killed after police fired on demonstrators on the adjacent island of Biak.

Reports of arson and rioting emerged yesterday from Jepara, a coastal town in central Java, where thousands of people went on the rampage on Tuesday.

The local police force said that one of its officers had been killed although there were no reports of civilian casualties.

In the Indonesian capital Jakarta, meanwhile, 200 workers rallied in front of the Labour Ministry demanding higher wages and protesting against the military's suppression of earlier demonstrations.

In Rome yesterday the Food and Agriculture Organisation said that nearly half of Indonesia's population faces acute food shortages following a prolonged drought and a worsening economic crisis. Fewer people were able to buy food because of high unemployment and rising prices, following the depreciation of the local currency.



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Public Announcement

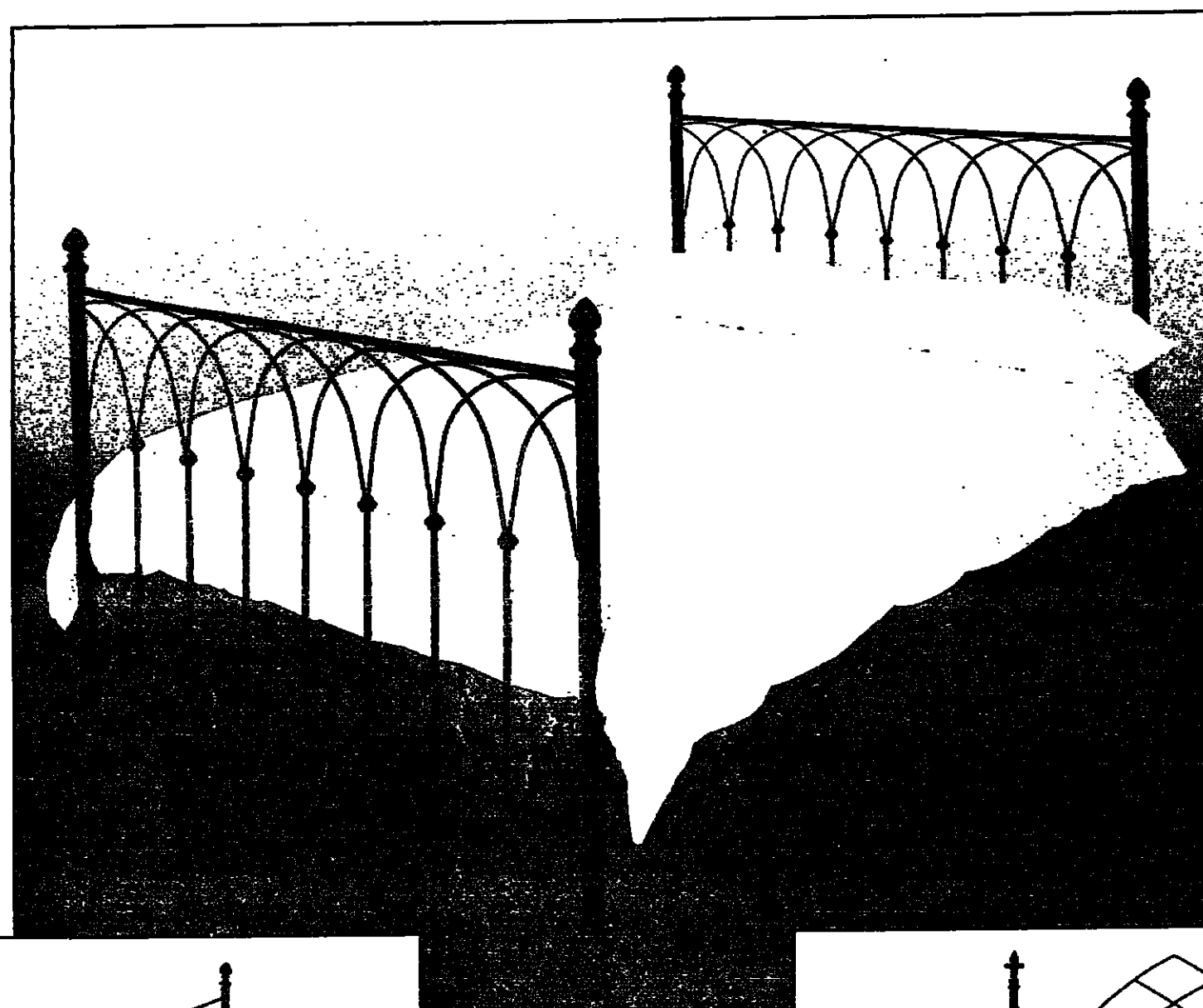
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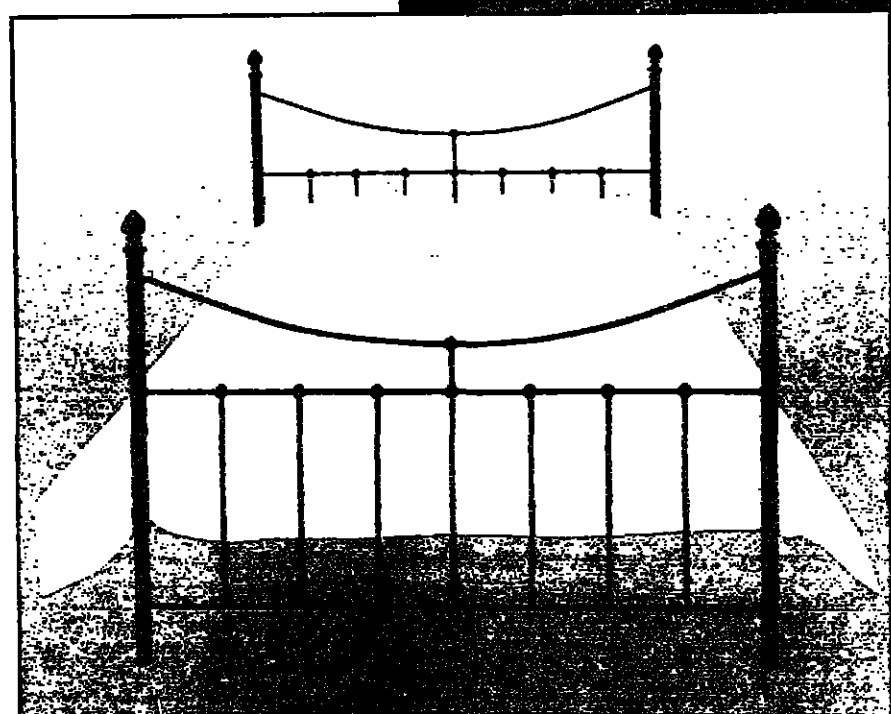
Wrought Iron Beds

Paris Bed



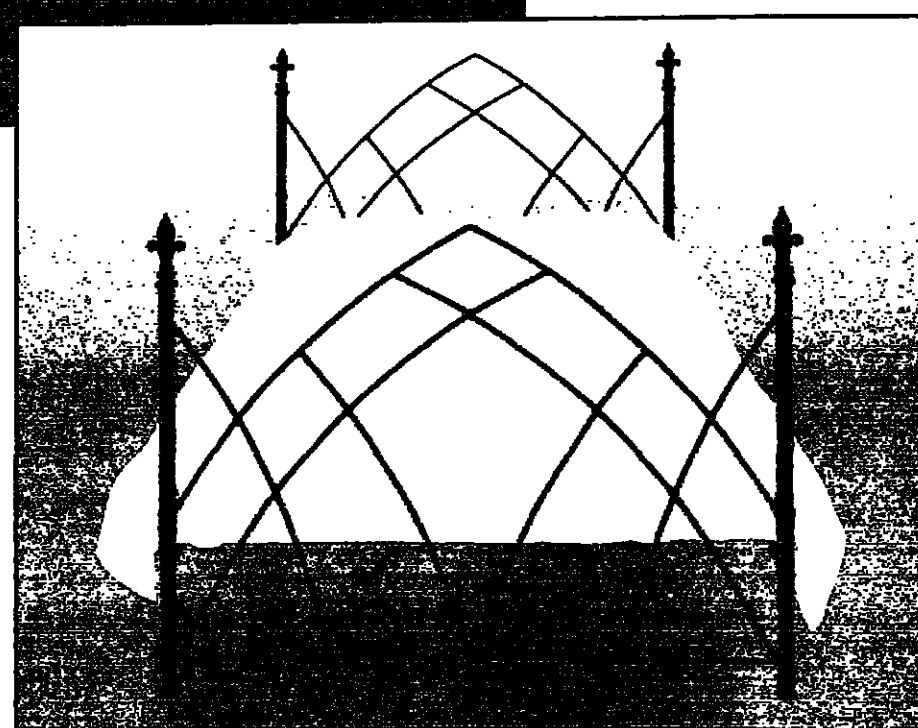
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Assad prepares son to rule Syria

ON THE posters in Damascus, the legend is simple. "Basil, the Example: Bashar, the Future." But the message on the walls of the Syrian capital is now made manifest, as President Hafez Assad prepares the way for his son, Dr Bashar Assad, a British-trained ophthalmologist, to become his successor.

In advance of Bashar Assad's appointment as head of the Regional Command of the Baath Party - and full colonel in the Syrian army - President Assad has pensioned off his chief of staff and fired his head of intelligence. Basil Assad was the beloved son of the 78-year-old Syrian president, a genuinely popular horse riding champion, who was chief of presidential security while running a powerful anti-corruption campaign within the regime.

In 1990, President Assad allowed himself to be called "Abu Basil" - father of Basil - a sure sign that the presidential man-

BY ROBERT FISK
in Beirut

tle was supposed to fall upon the 31-year-old soldier.

In January 1994, driving his own Mercedes at speed through fog to Damascus Airport, Basil Assad collided with a motorway roundabout and died instantly.

Bachar, a more reticent and less public figure, was projected as a scientist rather than a soldier, fascinated by computer technology, he is head of Syria's computer science department. But by 1994, at the age of 28, he graduated as a captain at the Military Academy at Homs after a course as a tank battalion commander.

Within two months he was a major in the Presidential Guards, continuing his brother's campaign against corruption. By May of 1995, he was visiting President Elias Hrawi of Lebanon, where Syria keeps

22,000 troops, accompanied by two of Syria's top generals.

The way was cleared for Bachar in February when President Assad dismissed his wayward brother Rifaat from the vice-presidency. Rifaat Assad had ordered his T-72 tanks on to the streets of Damascus in 1984 after his brother had a heart attack. In full uniform, and accompanied only by Basil, Hafez Assad drove in his private car to confront the tanks. Rifaat's men left the streets and the Basil-Bachar dynasty was secured.

Officially, President Assad's successor is chosen through the constitution, but the army remains a frighteningly powerful institution. Last week, President Assad got rid of his allegedly corrupt head of civilian intelligence, Major-General Bashir Najjar, and retired 67-year-old General Hikmat Shehadi, who had been chief of staff for 24 years but who did not get on with Bachar.

General Shehadi has been replaced by General Ali Aslan, an interesting figure whose reticence has tended to obscure an important military career. In 1973, it was Aslan's Syrian 5th Division which almost recaptured the Golan heights from Israel by driving Israeli troops from the southern and central plateau.

Major-General Mahmoud Al Saqqa, who commanded the Syrian contingent to the Albes in the Gulf War, has been appointed to succeed Najjar.

The Syrian regime may, however, suffer from a sectarian divide. President Assad is an Alawi, as is Bachar. So are General Ali Aslan and General Ali Douba. General Shehadi, meanwhile, is a Sunni as is General Najjar, his successor. Major-General Al Saqqa, and the Defence Minister, General Mustafa Tlass. The regime's enemies will no doubt be working on that equation for years.



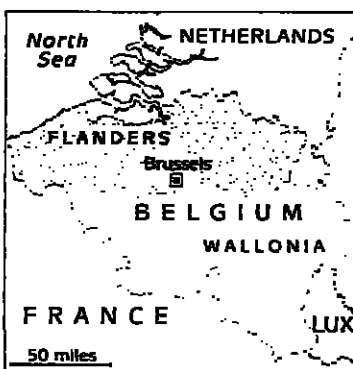
The language conflict in Belgium can cause a problem even when asking for a beer Frank Spooner

Battles with red tape leave village tongue-tied

A SLEEPY, more tranquil spot on the periphery of Brussels it would be hard to find. The large white villas and tall trees tell you this is one of the affluent south-city boroughs to which Eurocrats and moneyed American expats have migrated in big numbers.

The village is unpretentious - a church, a few shops and a police station. On the terrace in front of the Rodea Taverna locals sip Trappist beer, enjoying the summer evening sun and the bucolic setting.

FRONTLINE RHODE-SAINT-GENESE BELGIUM



You could not imagine anyone wanting to disrupt the serene ordinariness. Only the daubed white paint on the sign as you enter the village hints that you have stumbled on a dividing line in the enduring conflict between Belgium's Flemish and French speakers.

The sign saying "Rhode-Saint-Genese" has been messily painted over leaving "Saint-Genesius-Rode", the placename Flemings use. At the entrance to the public library the words "Bibliothèque publique communale" have been effaced, leaving "Gemeentelijke Openbare Bibliotheek".

Saint-Genesius-Rode is on the Flemish side of the linguistic frontier drawn through the map of Belgium in 1963, but it is also one of six "facility communes", boroughs edging the capital which have become the battleground in the latest outbreak of linguistic strife.

In a compromise hammered out when Belgium was officially split into administratively separate linguistic communities, all the official business of Saint-Genesius-Rode (population 18,000) is conducted in Flemish.

But French speakers (formerly in the minority) have an automatic right to services in French.

Myriam Delacroix-Rolin, the bilingual mayor, prepares the paperwork for civil

marriages in Flemish but if people ask she conducts the ceremony in French.

Three months ago, Ms Delacroix-Rolin was issued a circular by the Flemish regional authority. She was to strip away French-speakers' rights.

Brides would have to say "I do" in Flemish; likewise anybody filing a tax return or looking for a dog licence or planning permission. If they understood no Flemish they would have to apply separately in writing to be granted an exemption, not once, but on each individual occasion. In the event of a dispute, only the Flemish version of a document would hold up in court.

The council voted to disobey the edict because of the cost and time-wasting, not to mention inconvenience for much of the local population.

Now, every month when Ms Delacroix-Rolin sits down to chair a council meeting, the noise starts. Unnamed people she calls "the extremists"

gather outside, shouting slogans to drown out the meeting. "They are not even from this locality," she says. "They come in coaches and cars."

A new police chief is needed. But every time Ms Delacroix-Rolin sends in the form the Flemish regional authorities send it back on a technicality.

A Walloon headteacher at a local school has been asked to give back two years' salary because it was found that his Dutch language degree was not the one stipulated for headteachers. Ms Delacroix-Rolin says, he is overqualified and speaks better Dutch than required.

The Flemish say they need to protect their language as French speakers fan out from Brussels, (an officially bilingual enclave in Flanders) demanding their own schools and libraries. Ms Delacroix-Rolin calls it ethnic cleansing. "It's part of a strategy to make people feel disgruntled, to feel that the area is badly run so they will stop electing French speakers to the council and eventually be forced to move out."

Linguistic rows still engulf everything from football to the national entry in the Eurovision song contest. Arts groups and film makers find their funding cut off mid flow when somebody on one side or other thinks they have been neglected.

Rhodé-Saint-Genese is a microcosm of Belgium, where complex power-sharing structures have kept open conflict at bay but seem to have perpetuated the divisions.

Ms Delacroix-Rolin is convinced Flemish and French speakers can get along if left alone. "Before all this," she says, "if somebody had a problem reading an official form we would say come in and we'll go through it together in French. Both sides are becoming less tolerant."

KATHERINE BUTLER



Support for Eta has declined since the murder of town councillor Miguel Angel Blanco a year ago Rez

Eta's founder calls for end to random attacks

JULEN DE MADARIAGA practices as a lawyer in Bilbao from offices established 101 years ago by his grandfather, Ramon. "That's him," Madariaga pointing at an oil portrait of a moustachioed young gentleman. "It was painted when he was working as a barrister at the Old Bailey."

"And here," he points to a group photograph taken a generation later, "is my father. Like all members of the Basque government, he was forced into exile in 1936 to Chile. I was five and we didn't return until I was 14. The experience left me feeling that a plate of lead had been permanently embedded into my brain and my heart."

The experience lay at the root of why he founded the Basque separatist group, Eta, which - now the IRA has agreed to cease fire - is waging the last armed struggle in Europe.

This time last year its terrorist action brought millions of Spaniards on to the streets in revulsion, following the abduction and killing of a town councillor.

In a rare interview from such a key member of the Basque movement, Mr Madariaga charted his path from Eta founder in the Fifties to disenchantment with violence in the

BY ELIZABETH NASH
in Bilbao

Eighties. "A few of us got together in the 1950s, mostly law and engineering students, to try to reconquer our Basque independence, our territorial unity and the symbols of our identity, including our language," he recalled.

Madariaga was jailed for the first time in 1961 following Eta's first operation. It was the sabotage of a train taking Franco's veterans to a rally in San Sebastian on the 25th anniversary of their invasion of the Basque country. "No-one was hurt, it was a symbolic act, but the reaction was savage."

With more than 100 comrades, Madariaga was jailed and tortured. "They strewed gravel on a cement floor and made you kneel in it." He rose from his old armchair and knelt on the rug. "And two or three of them piled on top of you. They broke my ribs."

He was freed a year later, beginning a career of exile and clandestine activity interspersed with hunger strikes and jail terms in southern France, a region he calls Iparralde (northern Basque country).

During the Sixties he tried unsuccessfully to obtain train-

ing and supplies from the Algerians, fresh from the successful struggle for independence with France. "But they were more interested in trading with Spain and France, so they handed over us Etarras in exchange for sheep and Mirage jets." He went back to jail.

But in the late 1980s Madariaga broke from Eta, saying that the armed Basque separatists were carrying out "counter-productive" actions. And in 1995 after the assassination of a Basque conservative politician Gregorio Ordóñez, he quit the pro-Eta party, Herri Batasuna.

"I wasn't against selective attacks against military leaders," he says. "Any people unjustly attacked by another have all the right in the world to defend themselves with all the measures at their disposal."

"We were trodden underfoot and invaded, and that's as true now as it was under Franco. But I argued against car bombs that indiscriminately kill innocent civilians."

Eta did not start off as a military organisation, he insists. "We only gradually adopted armed actions. I was the first organiser of our military wing, and our main concern was to subordinate military actions to the political leadership. But in

time the military wing became the leadership of the movement."

Mr Madariaga says Eta was wrong to kidnap and kill the conservative local politician Miguel Angel Blanco a year ago.

The subsequent murder of the young councillor from the Basque village of Ermua brought millions of Spaniards on to the streets showing their revulsion against Eta in the biggest demonstrations that the country has seen.

"It's possible that it may be necessary to kill someone like Miguel Angel Blanco," Mr Madariaga says. "The question is does it improve or damage our prospects for success? I think actions like this harm our struggle. The military strategy is still valid, but not with these targets."

He remains passionate about the cause of Basque independence and freedom but says Eta has become more and more remote from the people it supposedly represents.

"It has lost touch with its bases and with the popular will." It should call a truce and seek talks with the government in Madrid - which he calls "the Spanish state". His appeal has so far elicited no response.

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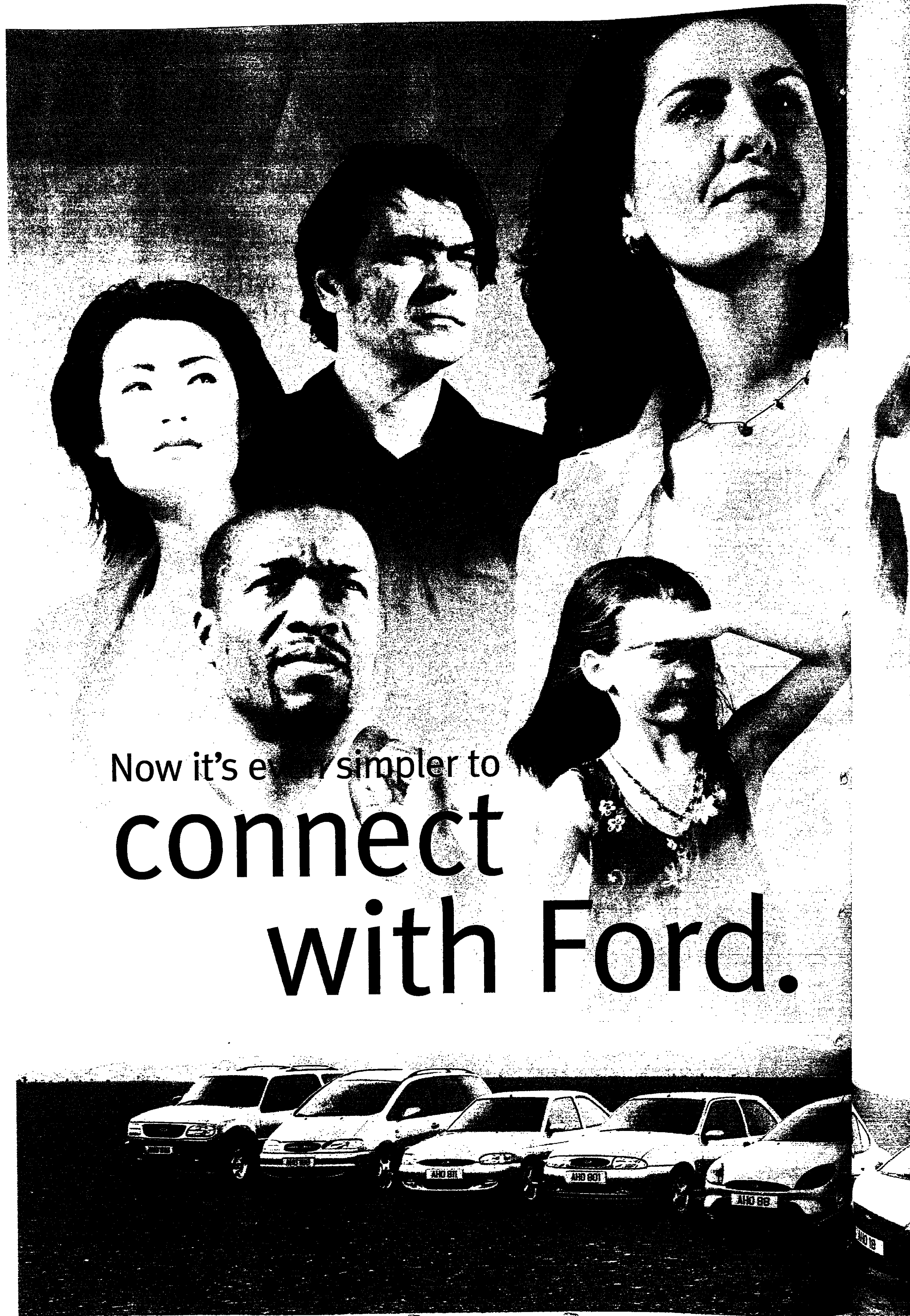


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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

FI Group staff share £4m bonus

EMPLOYEES and management at FI Group, the computer services group, shared £4m in profit-related pay last year as the company beat all its profit targets. David Best, FI's finance director said yesterday it had set aside £4m to fund the profit-sharing scheme compared with £1.2m in the previous year. However, the extra bonuses did not stop FI from reporting a record pre-tax profit of £10.7m, up 62 per cent on the previous year. The company is planning a five-for-one bonus issue which will make its shares more easily tradeable. The shares jumped 115p to 183p.

Investment column, page 23

S&N pours £15m into Germany



SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE, the UK's largest brewer, is set to spend £15m to expand its German pub operations.

The company, led by chief executive Brian Stewart, plans to develop up to 30 pubs and restaurants in the North of the country in partnership with Citrus, a privately owned German leisure group. Scottish & Newcastle's presence in Germany has so far been limited to two Australian-themed bars, called Cafe Oz.

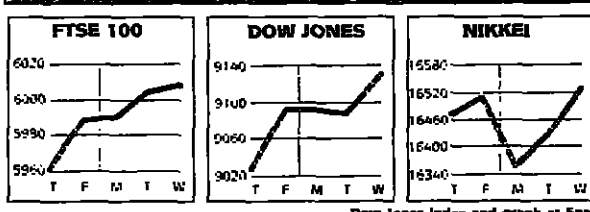
The company wants to increase its international presence to capitalise on its Europe-wide distribution rights for Foster's, the best-selling Australian lager. Yesterday shares in the group behind Newcastle Brown Ale and John Smith's hitler soared 4.6 per cent to 815 pence after it reported a 13 per cent increase in profits to £422m and issued an upbeat trading statement.

Investment Column, page 23

Trackers outperform

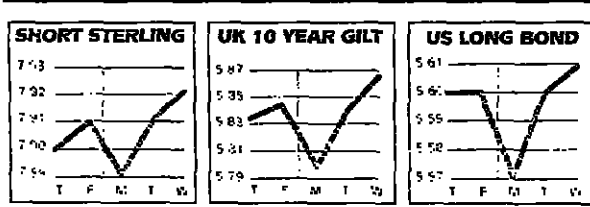
FUND MANAGERS which imitate movements in the FTSE 100 and FT AllShare indices have sharply outperformed rivals who try to pick the best stocks over the last 10 years, according to a survey by Barclays Global Investors. The survey showed index managers had outperformed active managers by up to 1.7 percentage points over the last 10 years. It estimates tracker funds save investors up to £11bn a year – the equivalent of 14 Millennium Domes.

STOCK MARKETS



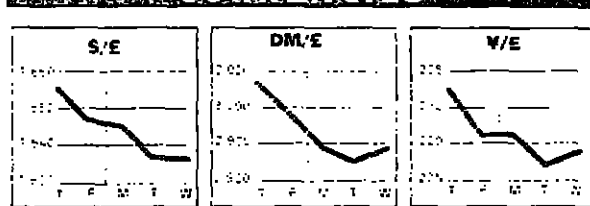
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	6009.60	6.20	0.10	6150.50	4382.80	3.81
FTSE 250	5622.00	18.70	0.33	5970.90	4384.20	3.40
FTSE 350	2892.80	4.20	0.15	2940.10	2141.80	3.74
FTSE All Share	2816.40	3.33	0.12	2872.04	2106.59	3.70
FTSE SmallCap	2589.50	-5.40	-0.21	2793.80	2162.10	3.16
FTSE MidCap	1417.10	-3.80	-0.27	1517.10	1275.20	3.36
FTSE AIM	1029.10	-2.20	-0.22	1146.90	965.90	1.18
FTSE EBL00	1090.00	5.98	0.55			
Dow Jones	9128.64	48.33	0.53	9261.91	6971.32	1.56
Nikkei	16530.97	114.69	0.70	20698.57	14488.21	0.92
Hang Seng	8629.18	135.00	1.58	16820.31	7351.68	4.74
Dax	6013.74	52.16	0.88	5995.11	3487.24	2.66

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	20 year
UK	7.55	6.21	5.00	4.50	4.50	5.97	11.15	12.42	13.51
US	5.49	4.02	3.51	3.22	3.52	4.56	5.91	6.97	8.27
Japan	0.51	0.02	0.05	0.16	1.67	1.91	2.40	2.40	2.40
Germany	3.25	0.43	3.83	0.57	4.72	4.56	5.26	5.26	5.26

CURRENCIES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	20 year
Pound	1.4264	1.4152	1.4855						
Dollar	1.4264	1.4152	1.4855						
Yen	1.4264	1.4152	1.4855						

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	11.70	0.35	12.45	GDP (UK)	1.4	0.09	111.06
Gold (\$)	292.55	-2.40	219.85	RPI	165.50	4.20	156.51
Silver (\$)	5.33	-0.01	4.21	Base Rates	7.55	0.00	10.25

www.bloomberg.com/uk

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.5489	Mexico (new peso)	13.30
Austria (schillings)	20.30	Netherlands (guilders)	3.2550
Belgium (francs)	59.68	New Zealand (\$)	3.0182
Canada (\$)	2.3536	Norway (krone)	12.32
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8435	Portugal (escudos)	204.35
Denmark (krone)	11.07	South Africa (rand)	5.9755
Finland (markka)	8.9397	Singapore (\$)	2.6397
France (francs)	5.6742	Spain (pesetas)	204.26
Germany (marks)	2.8972	South Africa (rand)	5.9755
Greece (drachma)	482.63	Sweden (krone)	12.32
Hong Kong (\$)	12.32	Switzerland (francs)	2.4007
Iceland (króna)	1.1453	Thailand (baht)	60.73
India (rupees)	64.15	Turkey (liras)	424528
Israel (shekels)	5.5518	USA (\$)	1.6018
Italy (lira)	2.365		
Japan (yen)	222.85		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.4787		
Malta (lira)	0.6257		

Thomas Cook

Inflationary signs are ominous, says survey

BY LEA PATERSON

INFLATIONARY signals in the UK remain "ominous", according to a survey published on the eve of the Bank of England's interest rate decision, despite growing evidence of declining output.

Recent evidence of strong average earnings growth and rising inflation has prompted fears that the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will today announce an

increase in interest rates. Another rate hike would be "most unwelcome", according to the head of the UK's engineering trade body who yesterday became the latest industry figure to call for a rate freeze.

Graham Mackenzie, director general of the Engineering Employers' Federation (EEF), warned that the sector was

heading for recession and said that his association's latest quarterly survey was the worst since the survey began in 1994.

Export and domestic orders and employment in the sector are all falling, the EEF said.

Announcing the results of the survey, Mr Mackenzie commented: "The engineering industry is under severe and mounting pressure. Any increase in interest rates would

run the risk of spreading the recessionary trends already evident in manufacturing."

A separate survey by BDO Stoy Hayward and the Centre for Economic and Business Research (CEBR) found that there was a slight uptick in UK inflation last month. Douglas McWilliams, chief executive of the CEBR, said: "The high interest rate policy is hurting but not yet working."

According to the BDO/CEBR survey, wage pressures were the main cause of the slight increase in the BDO inflation index last month. The rate of earnings growth in the UK is of particular concern to the MPC, and both the Bank of England and the Government have appealed for wage restraint.

The EEF survey revealed evidence of slowing wage growth in engineering, although econ-

omists were unconvinced that the survey would tip the balance in favour of a rate freeze.

Julian Jessop at Nikko Europe said: "The decision is really too close to call." And Ciaran Barr at Deutsche Bank said: "I think [the MPC] will probably hold fire for another month ... and assess the inflation report [due out in August]."

The MPC's decision is due at midday

Court rules in favour of RAC sell-off

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

THE Royal Automobile Club yesterday won an important legal battle over the £450m sale of its rescue services to the US company Cendant after a High Court judge rebuffed opposition from more than 300 disgruntled members and approved the deal.

The ruling opens the way for a speedy completion of the sale, which will net 12,000 "full members" of the club a £34,000 windfall each. However, the RAC is still open to two legal challenges – by 150 overseas members and around 220 retired members – who have sued the club for damages claiming they were unfairly excluded from the windfall payments.

During the High Court case, the dissidents had argued that the sale should be stopped on procedural grounds, saying that it discriminated against certain classes of members.

Under the RAC rules only full members, who pay a £632 a year fee to belong to the club, are entitled to the benefits of the disposal. Associate members, who pay a fee in exchange for the recovery services, overseas members and retired members, all pay a cut-price fee and are excluded from any windfall payment.

The club argued that associate members are not members but customers who pay a fee for rescue services. Retired members were also deemed to have no claim to the windfall because of their lower subscription fee.

At the end of a three-day hearing, Mr Justice Neuberger ruled in favour of the RAC, giving the go-ahead to a scheme transferring RAC Motor Services to Cendant.

The club welcomed the decision, saying that it "confirmed the validity of the approach of the RAC throughout the de-merger of its motoring services unit".

Stephen Alexander, a lawyer acting for the dissident members, said the High Court decision would have no impact on the writs and added that his clients would "press on with their legal action".



Bob Ayling, head of BA (right), with the European Competition Commissioner, Karel Van Miert (left). Nicola Kurtz

BA alliance 'will send fares soaring'

RIVAL AIRLINES and consumer groups warned yesterday that transatlantic air fares could rise by as much as 50 per cent after British Airways and American Airlines were given the conditional go-ahead to forge the world's biggest airline alliance.

Although regulators in London and Brussels laid down stiff conditions, insisting that in exchange for approval, the partners surrender the equivalent of half their transatlantic slots at Heathrow and Gatwick, the Consumers Association and other airlines attacked the deal.

Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic described the conditions as "woefully inadequate" and said air fares could rise by 10-50 per cent because of the alliance's domination of key transatlantic routes. The Consumers Association warned of a similar hike in fares, while Delta Air Lines also criticised the conditions for not going far enough and short changing consumers.

But Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, described the condi-

BY MICHAEL HARRISON
IN LONDON
AND KATHERINE BUTLER
IN BRUSSELS

tions as "too harsh", saying they would unfairly penalise the airline and British interests.

Karel Van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner, ruled that the alliance partners must give up a maximum of 267 take-off and landing slots in London in return for approval. They were also ordered to reduce their services on three key transatlantic routes – between London and Dallas and Chicago – by more than half for a period of six months while competition enters the market.

The President of the Board of Trade, Margaret Beckett, endorsed the EC's package of measures and said she hoped to give the alliance final approval in the autumn, once US and UK authorities had signed a new "open skies" agreement between the two countries.

Mr Ayling said BA would campaign to have them amend-

ed during a 30-day consultation period announced by Mrs Beckett but he stopped short of saying they were a "deal breaker".

British Midland, which has announced plans to serve up to ten US destinations, including Miami and Chicago, welcomed the conditions laid down by Mr Van Miert. But the rival US carrier Delta Air Lines criticised them for not going far enough.

The alliance will dominate transatlantic air services, accounting for 40 per cent of the market and 100 per cent of passengers on some routes, such as Gatwick-Dallas. The 267 slots they have been told to surrender – 220 at Heathrow and the remainder at Gatwick – represents a compromise between the original demands of the UK and EU authorities.

The Office of Fair Trading initially recommended the surrender of 168 slots (although this was increased to 210 slots in unpublished confidential guidance given by the OFT to ministers last September). Mr Van Miert, meanwhile, initially called for the two airlines to give

up a total of 353 slots.

The alliance has still to be approved by the US Department of Transportation. Even supposing that is forthcoming this September, BA and American Airlines would not be able to launch the alliance until next summer, possibly autumn – more than three years after it was first unveiled.

Mr Ayling said BA objected to being told to give up slots for free. "We have these rights and if we are asked to give them up, we should be compensated. It would be inconsistent with previous decisions by the EC to force us to give up valuable rights without that."

In Brussels, Mr Van Miert said: "This is not the end of the procedure, but it is a milestone. The Commission has set the framework now."

He made it clear also that the number of slots to be surrendered was not negotiable, that auctioning slots is illegal, and that he expects BA and AA to start the handover as soon as rivals request it.

Outlook, page 19

Brussels clears merger of US telecoms groups

BY PETER THAL LAUSEN

THE European Commission yesterday took the long-awaited decision to clear the merger of MCI and WorldCom, the American telecoms groups, opening the way for British Telecom to find a partner of its own in the US.

Clearance comes eight months after MCI and World-

Com first agreed to merge, after WorldCom trumped an earlier offer for MCI from British Telecom. The decision is likely to be followed by similar clearance from the US antitrust authorities later this summer.

Under the terms of the deal, British Telecom will receive \$7bn (£4.3bn) in cash for its 20 per cent stake in MCI.

BT is thought to be keen to invest the cash in an acquisition, although it also has the option to buy back up to 10 per cent of its shares – a move that would cost over £5bn.

The European Commission's clearance is conditional on MCI selling off its entire Internet business.

The US group has already agreed to sell its Internet backbone – the physical network infrastructure itself – and a 1,300-strong customer base to Cable & Wireless for \$625m.

However, the European Commission has insisted that MCI also sell off its large corporate Internet contracts.

The company is negotiating to sell the remainder of the business to Cable & Wireless. "We are still talking," a spokesman for Cable & Wireless said yesterday.

Larger retailers who are members of the BRC have their own electronic point-of-sale and swipe-card systems which they can continue to operate.

But there was concern yesterday for many thousands of smaller retailers who rent their equipment from the banks and who would find it difficult to resist the Apacs initiative.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

LEADING SHARES held firm for the sixth consecutive session, with Footsie ending 6.2 points up at 6,009.6. The market opened strongly when brewing group Scottish & Newcastle and electrical retailer Dixons produced unexpectedly good statements. It drifted lower before a firm New York opening led to a final flourish. Takeover rumours haunted the drugs industry, with SmithKline Beecham, up 17.3p to 764.5p, said to be in the sights of Merck, the US group.

Derek Pain, page 23

NEW YORK

GAINS in financial services companies lent strength to blue-chip stocks in mid-morning trading as investors focused on bullish Wall Street comments about Travelers Group. "It's one of those days when the market is looking for something to focus on and it happens to be financial stocks today," said John Cleland, chief investment strategist at the Security Benefit Group of Companies. At mid-morning the Dow Jones Industrial index stood at 9,128.39, up 43.35 points.

TOKYO

STOCKS CLOSED higher as speculation mounted that Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, would announce permanent tax cuts at a news conference later in the day. The benchmark Nikkei 225 index rose 114.69 points, or 0.70 per cent, to 16,530.97. The broader Topix index rose 3.59 points, or 0.28 per cent, to 1,268.40. Talk of tax cuts, which analysts say are needed to boost the economy, was fuelled by an article in the newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun saying Mr Hashimoto was poised to announce measures.

AUSTRALIA

THE AUSTRALIAN share market ended modestly higher yesterday after late profit-taking, mainly among the banks, pulled prices off earlier Tokyo-led highs. The All Ordinaries index finished 4.8 points up at 2,771.1 on turnover of A\$1.06bn. Dealers said investors had become more cautious after last week's strong gains, which took the market 3.1 per cent higher. "There's been some outstanding performances in the market over the past few days," said Geoff Burrell of Burrell & Co.

INDONESIA

JAKARTA stocks closed mostly lower on yesterday as players sold off shares in state-owned firms which had posted gains over the past few days on hopes of further privatisation. Concerns had also mounted over a separatist movement in Irian Jaya province, and a possible power struggle when the ruling Golkar party holds a meeting today. The composite index closed down 10.97 points, or 0.27 per cent, at 472.98 on turnover estimated at 262bn rupiah. One analyst said the market is expected to cool down over the next few days as investors stay sidelined.

Van Miert gets his slots about right

THREE THINGS in life are certain. One is death, another is taxes and the third is that British Airways would object to the curbs imposed on its alliance with American Airlines by the European Competition Commissioner, Karel Van Miert.

BA's howls of protest were no less predictable, however, than the barrage of complaints and dire prognostications from rival airlines that greeted the widely-trailed set of conditions. If BA's Bob Ayling thinks they are "too harsh" and Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic reckons they are "totally inadequate" then the regulators in Brussels might reasonably conclude they have come up with a workable compromise.

Mr Van Miert and his opposite numbers in London have travelled a long way in converging directions since they first cast their eyes over the BA-AA alliance all those years ago. (In fact it is only two, but such has been the glacial process of approval that it has occasionally tested the will to live).

Along the way we have all become anoraks - versed in the terminology of slot allocation, city-pairs and route scheduling. Mr Van Miert initially wanted BA-



OUTLOOK

AA to surrender 353 slots (the right to take-off and land) at Heathrow and carve out a number of routes from the alliance altogether.

The Office of Fair Trading opted for a more modest surrender of 168 slots, spread over a leisurely time period with an option that some of them could be leased by the alliance partners. Now Mr Van Miert has modified his demand to 267 slots, to be surrendered without compensation as soon as the alliance is formally launched. The competition authorities in London have puffed up their chests and agreed to go along with the revised conditions. And yet the saga is still not over. With a delight bordering on the

sadistic, Mr Ayling says he still expects the conditions laid down by Brussels to be changed after a suitable consultation period. Virgin, meanwhile, warns in the most dispiriting of terms that this is merely the end of the beginning and speaks of "a considerable period of negotiation ahead in Brussels, London and the US".

With a following wind, the alliance might just have all the necessary regulatory approvals by the end of the year. But don't get too excited about the prospect of fare cuts (or fare increases depending on whose propaganda you believe) because even then the alliance will not be airborne until the autumn of next year. Let's hope it's worth the wait.

Buyout mania gets out of hand

INSTITUTIONAL investors have a dilemma. They are sitting on mounds of spare cash but don't want to invest in the stock market. But while they keep it as cash, it drags down their performance figures. What can they do?

The venture capital industry has an answer. Give the cash to us, they

say, and we'll find some lucrative management buyouts to make your money grow. To persuade fund managers they brandish performance figures showing that earlier funds have produced annual returns of 25 per cent or more - better than anyone could hope for from the stock market.

And this does indeed persuade the fund managers. Yesterday CVC Capital Partners, a private equity group, announced it had raised a \$3.1bn (£2.0bn) European buy-out fund - the largest to date. In the past year or so, venture capital groups including Doughty Hanson, Cander and Charterhouse have all raised funds worth £1bn.

This cash is all chasing the same type of deal. To have a hope of investing a fund that size, venture capitalists can't consider anything smaller than about £50m. Deals that size don't come along too often, so when they do an auction ensues and someone ends up overpaying.

So venture capitalists are getting creative. They are looking to continental Europe, where the culture of shareholder value and managers enriching themselves is only just catching on. They are also backing private acquisition vehicles which have been

set up to consolidate fragmented industries. Most importantly, they are leading their deals up with ever greater quantities of debt from the bond markets so as to achieve the desired return on equity.

Even so the going continues to get tougher. At least one of the recently raised funds has gone twelve months without investing a penny. The others are praying there'll be no recession or stock market crash, which would prevent them from getting out at a profit after three years.

The stark truth is that the venture capital industry's past performance was built not on the brilliance of the managers but on the twin booms of economic recovery and rising stock markets. Don't bet on the trick being repeated.

Chancellor pulls defence punches

THERE NOW. That's not too bad is it? The 3 per cent real cut in the defence budget over the next three years outlined in yesterday's Strategic Defence Review is a mere flea bite compared to what it could have been. Having been led to expect much worse, the chiefs of staff

were positively cooing with delight - lots of new toys for the boys and the chance to go hopping around the world like some kind of mercenary force from one crisis to the next. Just what the doctor ordered.

The limited size of the proposed cuts should also give the City rather more faith in the Government's overall spending targets than it has had to date, since it was widely assumed the defence budget would be much more seriously raided to fund priority spending on health, education and law and order. A deep cut to fund a steep rise would not have been regarded as credible; to spend is easy, to economise is much more difficult.

All the same, even a cut of just 3 per cent is hard enough to achieve. The Defence Review is alarmingly short of detail on how it is to be realised. Three broad categories are identified. First, there will be savings on personnel. Second, costs will be reduced by having the three services act more as a unified whole, rather than separately, as they do at the moment. And third, there will be savings on procurement.

All this is eerily reminiscent of those consolidating merger proposals we read about all the time

these days, which investors are seduced into backing with mouth watering promises of their potential for cost cutting. Rarely does anyone ever go back to check the savings have been achieved. More rarely still do companies actually achieve them. In the public sector, such cuts are more difficult still.

Even so, the target for defence cuts might have been a lot higher and if it had been it would have been a good deal less credible. The flip side is that the Chancellor now has less to give away to the other spending departments of health, education, transport and the home office than he would have liked. We'll know more about those plans next week.

Any minister hoping for a bonanza can forget it. Defence is one of the larger spending departments with a budget this year of £22.2bn, but it is dwarfed by health and social security. A 3 per cent cut in the defence budget equates to a rise of just 1.7 per cent in the national health service budget. No wonder Gordon Brown has been forced to belittle his description as the "Iron Chancellor" with his overall cap on growth in public spending, which at 2.75 per cent a year, has been set much higher than anyone anticipated.

News Analysis: The Services, rather than procurement, will bear the brunt of defence spending cuts

Arms firms gear up for bonanza

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

ARMS manufacturers were quietly celebrating yesterday after the Government's strategic defence review confirmed that the procurement programme would remain intact at the expense of cuts in service personnel and regiments.

The UK defence industry has had a torrid time since the end of the Cold War robbed it of much of its traditional customer base. Employment in the industry has fallen by 300,000 to 415,000 since 1980, while the procurement budget has been chopped back by 25 per cent. The only thing that has spared the sector from worse has been the rise in export business, which now accounts for nearly 40 per cent of output. Total UK defence sales last year were £14bn, of which exports made up £5bn.

Set against this backdrop, the strategic review makes heartening reading. Although defence spending will fall by £900m in real terms by 2002, this will be achieved largely by reductions in personnel numbers and more efficient running of the procurement budget.

The Army's eight tank regiments will be condensed into six, 2,500 British troops will return from Germany and the Territorial Army will be trimmed from 56,000 to 40,000.

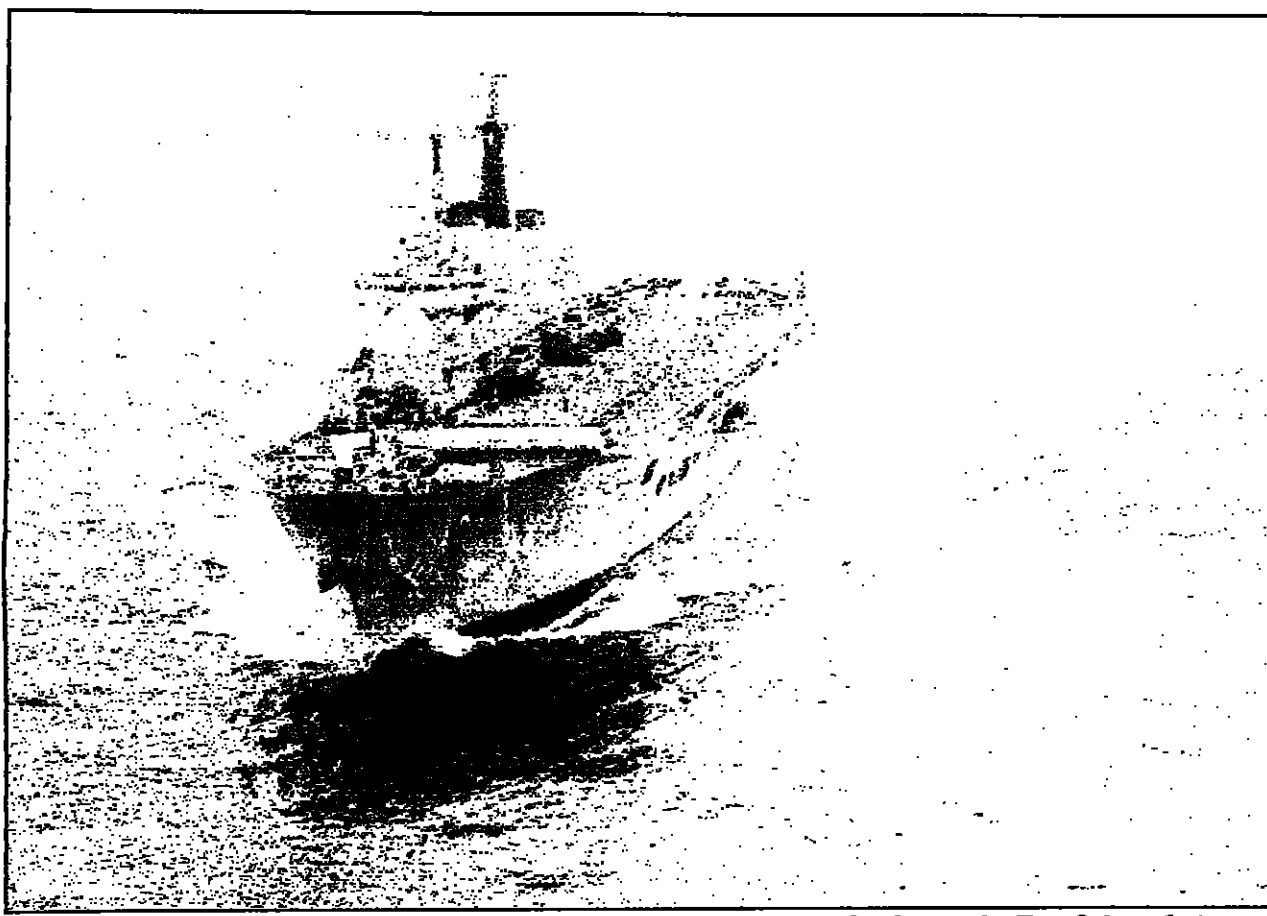
The good news for defence manufacturers is that Britain's smaller but more mobile armed forces will enjoy greater "punch" as a result of a range of equipment programmes.

The Ministry of Defence's shopping list includes two new large aircraft carriers, expected to cost £5bn, four roll-on-roll-off container ships and four new large military aircraft. The RAF will go ahead with a production order for 232 Eurofighters, while the number of minesweepers will rise from 22 to 25.

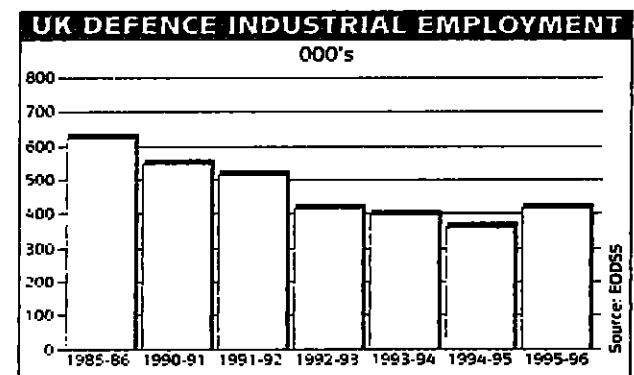
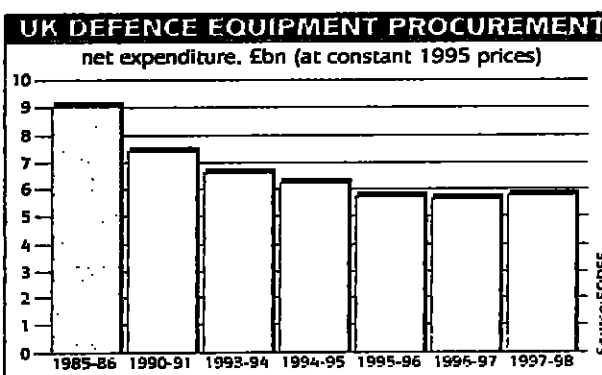
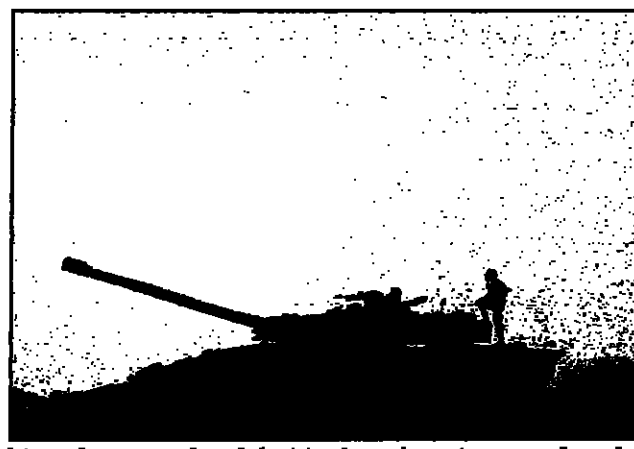
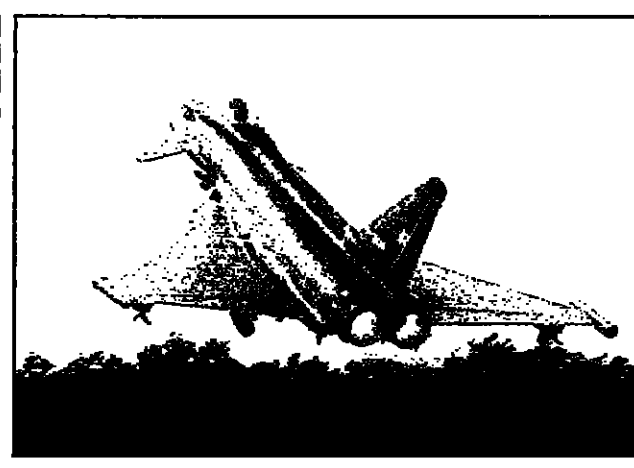
On the debit side, the Navy's surface fleet of destroyers and frigates will fall from 35 to 32 and the number of hunter-killer attack submarines will go down from 12 to 10. The RAF will lose 23 offensive support and 13 air defence aircraft.

Alan Sharman, director general of the Defence Manufacturers Association, said: "From the industry's point of view the strategic review is not a bad outcome. The MoD consulted widely from the start and we were invited to form a partnership with the armed forces. Now the industry will take part in the implementation of the review."

The plum procurement con-



Two large carriers will replace the present three, including the 'Ark Royal' (above); the Eurofighter (bottom right) order goes ahead, but tank regiments are reduced



tract is the Navy's requirement for two 21,000-tonne aircraft carriers to replace the *Invincible*, *Invincible* and *Ark Royal*. They will be twice the size of these and will be capable of operating up to 50 fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters.

Britain's warship-building capacity has contracted so much that the only UK yard capable of building the new carriers is VSEL in Barrow, now owned by GEC. The last aircraft carrier to roll down the slipway, the *Ark Royal*, was built at Barrow.

In order to turn the contract into a competitive tender, the MoD could invite bids from foreign yards. What it is more likely to do, however, is put the prime contractorship out to contract while leaving the building of the vessels at VSEL. This would enable it to attract several UK bids.

This approach has been adopted in the past. Although Barrow is building the latest batch of three Trafalgar hunter-killer submarines, the prime contractorship was awarded to GEC Marconi prior to its takeover of VSEL.

The Royal Navy will also get four Ro-Ro ships to add to its existing two - the *Sea Chief* and *Sea Crusader*. The strategic review also reiterates the MoD's commitment to

modernise the destroyer and frigate force. GEC's Yarrow yard on the Clyde is part of an Anglo-French-Italian consortium chosen to develop the new Horizon anti-air warfare frigate. The UK requirement is for up to 12 ships.

The review also confirms that Britain will proceed with the £30bn Eurofighter programme equipped with new missiles such as the BVRAAM - Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile - the Brimstone advanced anti-armour missile and the Storm Shadow stand-off air-to-surface long-range cruise missile.

The RAF will also get four new large transporters - probably the giant C-17 aircraft from the US. But the MoD is also considering a replacement

for its elderly Hercules transporters for which the Future Large Aircraft, a programme being run by the Airbus consortium, is a contender.

The review also heralds a marked change in the way in which the procurement programme will be run in future. The MoD's procurement executive will become an agency and will adopt what are known as "smart procurement" techniques designed to cut down the long time lag between a requirement being identified and the equipment entering service.

At present defence suppliers have to deal with a host of different departments within the MoD, starting with the operational requirements staff, then the procurement executive and finally the in-service managers.

The aim of the overhaul will be to create a "single customer" for each piece of military hardware, be it a tank, a fighter aircraft or a new frigate. "What we hope will emerge is a much more streamlined and focused organisation with one project team managing a procurement programme from its inception to entering service," said Mr Sharman.

British Aerospace, which will be the main beneficiary of the £30bn Eurofighter programme, also welcomed the planned streamlining of procurement.

John Weston, BA's chief executive, said: "This will lead to greater stability in the defence industry, which will be better able to plan its investments and organisational

structures to respond to future MoD requirements."

In the longer term the defence industry is looking to benefit as more support and maintenance services presently supplied by the MoD are put out to tender.

Mr Sharman predicted that the biggest winners from the procurement budget would be suppliers of systems, software and electronic warfare equipment. "As the number of platform builders reduces, these are the areas that will thrive," he added.

It is an area of expertise that GEC Marconi has decided to focus on to the extent that it is prepared to consider disposing of "platform providers" such as VSEL and Yarrow altogether in the long run.



What's in the procurement programme ...

- Two new 21,000-tonne aircraft carriers
- Four new Ro-Ro container ships
- Four extra RAF transporters
- Production order for 232 Eurofighter aircraft
- Up to 12 new generation frigates

... and what's out

- Surface ship fleet cut from 35 to 32
- Minesweeper fleet cut from 25 to 22
- Trident nuclear warhead arsenal reduced from 300 to 200
- RAF to lose 23 support and 13 air defence aircraft

IN BRIEF

CVC raises £1.9bn for fund

CVC CAPITAL Partners Ltd, a UK-based private equity company, said it raised \$3.1bn (£1.9bn) for its CVC European Equity Partners II Fund, the most ever raised for a fund to finance European management buyouts.

The company said it has raised the money from more than 70 European, US and Middle Eastern institutions, plus several private investors, adding that most investors in its last European fund - the \$840m CVC European Equity Partners - have committed capital to the new fund.

Outlook, this page

Link welcomed

LEADING central bankers gave a warm welcome to the planned link-up between the London and German stock exchanges. However Karel Van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner, was more cautious about the initiative.

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, said the plan by the London Stock Exchange and the Deutsche Börse to build a single European stock market was a "huge opportunity" to develop a broad and liquid market. He said: "We all stand to gain from this kind of evolution. It was a very forward-looking and sensible step."

Wim Duisenberg, President of the new European Central Bank, said the Anglo-German link-up could be the start of a more widespread programme of co-operation.

Mr Van Miert said his officials were "likely" to look into the alliance, but added that there was as yet no indication that the deal would pose competition concerns.

PPL drug trials

PPL THERAPEUTICS, the company which cloned Dolly the sheep, yesterday announced positive results for the preliminary trials of its anti-cystic fibrosis drug AAT.

The drug is based on a protein derived from the milk of sheep which have been injected with human DNA, a pioneering method used by only three companies in the world. Tests on 22 patients over one month show the drug was well-tolerated and safe, PPL said. However, it cautioned that the results were not statistically significant and that further trials were needed.

German deficit

GERMANY'S public sector deficit should fall well under the 3 per cent of GDP Maastricht criterion in 1999, according to a finance plan for 1998 to 2002 approved by the cabinet yesterday.

Under the plan Germany's public sector deficit, of which the federal deficit is a part, should fall to 2.0 per cent of GDP in 1999. Germany's public sector debt, however, is not expected to fall under the Maastricht criterion of 60 per cent of GDP until 2001. By that date, it should total 59.5 per cent of GDP against an anticipated 60.75 per cent in 1999.

PIA may add pension top-ups to mis-selling review

BY ANDREW VERITY

THE Personal Investment Authority has admitted that it may be forced to launch a full-scale review of the mis-selling of pension top-up policies after carrying out preliminary investigations.

The City's personal finance regulator said it had received anecdotal evidence from occupational pension schemes that firms selling the top-ups, known

as free-standing additional voluntary contributions (FSAVCs), may have been mis-sold.

The admission follows more than two years of pressure from actuaries and pension funds concerned that the selling of the contracts could turn into a repeat of the £15bn pension transfer scandal.

Bacon & Woodrow and Watson Wyatt, the pension fund consultants, have repeatedly warned of widespread mis-selling of FSAVCs, which carry commission worth 5 per cent or more of total savings over the life of the contract.

By contrast, in-house AVCs - which must be offered to anyone with an employer pension scheme - carry no commission

and have much lower charges.

A quirk in the regulators' rules means financial advisers who sell the top-up policies cannot advise on the merits of an in-house scheme - even if it is a better scheme. The 1986 Financial Services Act requires them to advise their customers only on products brought out by their own company.

Sainsbury's and British Air-

ways have written to the regulator to voice fears that members of their pension schemes are being sold the top-up policies without getting enough information on better deals available from their own employer.

Two years ago, as it was struggling to get the personal pensions review off the ground, the PIA looked into the issue.

The regulator issued limited guidance on the sale of FSAVCs, but it backed away from further inquiries.

After pressure from the press and the pensions industry, the PIA is now conducting "focus visits" at the biggest sellers of FSAVCs to see if the claims by Sainsbury's and BA are correct.

If enough evidence emerges,

the regulator will recommend guidance or rules changes. It may also recommend a full-scale review involving fines and compensation.

A spokeswoman for the PIA said: "The comments that have been raised with us are of interest. There is the potential that this could become a large-scale review if our findings are of concern."

Dixons
to open
100 new
stores

Dixons
to open
100 new
stores

in 10
markets

Capital C

Dixons to open 100 new stores

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

DIXONS, the electrical retailer, is to create 2,000 jobs over the next year as it opens 100 new stores in its Dixons, Currys, PC World and The Link formats.

The news came as the company reported better-than-expected trading figures which sparked a 12 per cent rise in Dixons' shares, which closed 66p higher at 547p.

The City was relieved by Dixons' report on current trading, although same-store sales in the first nine weeks of the current year were 10 per cent lower than last year. Figures in the previous period were artificially boosted by spending of building society windfalls.

John Clare, the chief executive, said the economic outlook was uncertain, but the group had been less affected by the downturn in consumer spending than his other retailers of higher-ticket items such as MFI, Carpetright and DFS Furniture.

He conceded that higher interest rates were making life tougher on the high street, but he said fears of recession were exaggerated and that new digital products such as cameras and recordable compact discs would invigorate the market.

Lower prices for standard electrical items would also help, he said. "Prices have come down and you can now get a 14-inch portable TV for less than £100 and a video recorder for less than £100, and the prices of microwave ovens are also falling," Mr Clare said.

The Asian economic crisis has had little effect on Dixons' buying prices as it secures most of its electrical supplies from the UK. However, prices of personal computers have fallen by 20 per cent since Christmas due to lower component prices.

On strategy, Mr Clare said he would look at other opportunities in UK retailing as well as overseas expansion.

Dixons reported a 14 per cent increase in underlying profits to £217.6m.

Investment column, page 23

Nationwide battle over £499,000 'fat cat' pay

BY ANDREW VERITY

THE NATIONWIDE yesterday risked fresh hostility to its board's battle to stay mutual as it revealed Brian Davis, its chief executive, was paid nearly half a million pounds in the year to April - a 26 per cent rise.

Dr Davis, who has led a high profile campaign to stop carpetbaggers collecting windfalls worth hundreds of pounds each, was paid £300,000 in salary alone, up from £250,000 in the year to April 1997.

He also received an annual bonus of £79,000, a three-year bonus of £76,000, benefits worth £14,000 and pension contributions of £30,000 - nearly double the contributions of the previous year.

The £499,000 package provoked an immediate reaction from candidates running for election to the Nationwide's board in a bid to force the society to convert to a bank.

Andrew Muir, the 32-year-old recruitment consultant from Slough who is standing for election, said: "This is a classic case of fat cats who have no effective body to check their pay."

"Conversion would bring the institutional investors in and they would look after the interests of the majority of smaller shareholders. If he is taking a 25 per cent pay rise, did he give his staff a 25 per cent pay rise?"

A spokesman for the building society defended the pay rise. "I think Brian would be the first to accept that he is well

paid for what he does. But we had a record breaking year last year and we do consider this to be a fair reward."

Other directors of Nationwide were also given big pay rises. Stuart Bernau, director of retail operations, got £253,000 for the year against £71,000 for the previous six months.

Alistair Dales, group finance director, received pay and compensation of £331,000 - a 35 per cent rise on the previous year. Philip Williams, marketing director, got a 50 per cent rise to £254,000.

The rises do reflect unprecedented performance, which saw Nationwide increase pre-tax profits by 40 per cent to £372m over the year.

However, the building society has admitted that a big chunk of its unprecedented growth in business is due to 600,000 carpetbaggers, who opened savings accounts to secure a windfall.

While Nationwide's board has campaigned ardently in favour of staying mutual, a formal postal ballot on the issue is now said to be running "neck and neck". Three resolutions in favour of demutualisation will be decided in a proxy vote on July 23.

Michael Hardern, the part-time freelance butler who is running alongside Mr Muir for election to the board, yesterday pulled a bizarre publicity stunt in an effort to raise the profile of his campaign.

Dressed in a peer's robes outside the Houses of Parliament, Mr Hardern insisted Nationwide customers would get free access to the Internet - and a seat in the House of Lords.

"Tony Blair has talked about modernising the House of Lords and this could be done by inviting Nationwide customers to take a seat in the House of Lords," Mr Hardern said.

A spokesman for the Nationwide answered: "We are adopting a polite approach to Mr Hardern and we wouldn't want to comment on what he said."

"I think our members can make their own judgements," he said.



Brian Davis: A 26 per cent pay rise to £499,000



Michael Hardern in a baron's robes outside the House of Lords, where he promised Nationwide shareholders a seat if elected to the society's board. Ben Curtis

Duisenberg tells banks to lodge assets with ECB

BY LEA PATERSON

WIM DUISENBERG, president of the European Central Bank (ECB), yesterday furthered his reputation for being tough-minded and unafraid of controversy when he insisted that all European banks deposit a proportion of their assets with the ECB. He also issued stern warnings to European financial ministers about the need for fiscal prudence.

At a press conference called to discuss the second meeting of the ECB's governing council, the ECB chief announced that all banks in the "euro-zone" - the group of 11 countries participating in the first wave of European Monetary Union (Emu) - must deposit between 1.5 per cent and 2.5 per cent of assets at the ECB. This so-called "minimum reserve requirement" is intended to ensure financial stability, but has been heavily criticised for disadvantaging banks within the euro-zone.

Banks outside the zone - including banks in the UK - will not have to pay minimum reserve requirements to the ECB, and as such have an unfair competitive advantage, according to critics of the system.

In an attempt to head off criticism of the minimum reserve requirement, Mr Duisenberg announced that the ECB would pay interest on all assets deposited by banks within the euro-zone.

Christian Noyer, vice-president of the ECB, said that this decision to pay interest meant that the minimum reserve requirement was "absolutely neutral" to the banking community, although his view was not shared by everyone in the industry.

Rolf Breuer, chief executive of Deutsche Bank, said that the minimum reserve requirement was an outdated monetary tool which could distort competition.

Mr Breuer said: "I doubt that minimum reserves are a

suitable instrument for managing monetary and stability policy these days. It's a little bit outdated." He added that the decision by the ECB to pay interest on the reserves at a level close to market rates still allowed a possible deviation from market rates, which could give competitors outside the euro-zone an edge.

However, Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, said he was encouraged by the ECB's decision to pay interest on reserves, saying it would minimise the distortions such a system could inflict on the financial sector.

Mr Duisenberg also used yesterday's ECB press conference as an opportunity to warn European finance ministers against taking an overly relaxed attitude towards fiscal policy.

The ECB chief said: "I raised a yellow card (to European finance ministers). If countries do not continue to consolidate their budget it will place a strain on the monetary policy of the European Central Bank."

In response to questions from reporters, Mr Duisenberg also said that he was keeping a close eye on fiscal policy in Ireland's booming economy. Charlie McCreevy, the Irish finance minister, said the ECB chief's point of view was "not in any way" binding on member states.

Mr McCreevy added that the ECB was in charge of monetary policy, while budgetary policy was a matter for governments.

Mr Duisenberg said that the ECB had agreed to give central banks outside the euro-zone conditional access to Target, its gross payments system, a decision which the Bank of England said was "satisfactory".

The ECB said it would announce key details of its monetary strategy - including whether it intended to target interest rates or money supply - in the autumn.

Yen slides further as markets lose patience

THE DOLLAR climbed against the yen yesterday after Japan's Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, provided few details of his plans to cut taxes. Mr Hashimoto said he would seek "publicly acceptable" tax cuts in the next fiscal year. He did not say how large these would be, how they would be funded or whether they would be permanent.

"The market is getting tired of waiting for Japan to take action on taxes," said Luis Maizel of LM Capital Management in La Jolla, California. "They can no longer talk their way out of this crisis. If we don't see concrete action soon, we're going to see the dollar at 155 yen."

The dollar rose to 139.67 yen from 138.74 yesterday. The dollar has fluctuated against the yen over the last five days amid mixed signals from Japanese officials on tax reform. Mr Hashimoto's comments suggested he may call for a cut in personal income taxes. The ruling Liberal Democratic Party's Tax Research Commission will begin debating proposals on 16 July, he said.

On Tuesday, Japanese officials talked up a 1.5 per cent rise in the yen by stoking expectations that Mr Hashimoto would give details yesterday on a plan for permanent tax cuts.

Hiromu Nonaka, the deputy secretary general of the LDP, said Mr Hashimoto supported national and local income tax cuts. Another LDP official said the plan would be announced before Mr Hashimoto visits US President Bill Clinton in Washington on 22 July.

"Hashimoto has let the mar-



Hashimoto: Gave little detail of tax-cut scheme

kets down before," said Mark McGuinness, a foreign exchange trader at Gulf International Bank. "With the Japanese economy a total shambles, the failure of Japan to impress the market today will send the yen lower" to 140 yen or weaker, he said.

The Deutschmark weakened after the New York Times reported that the International Monetary Fund privately indicated it may be willing to provide Russia with \$5.6bn (£3.4bn) in new loans, less than the \$10bn to \$15bn Russian officials say is needed.

In a debt auction yesterday Russia raised only a quarter of the amount it needs to cover \$1bn in debt repayments this week.

Many economists are concerned that Russia's cash squeeze may force it to devalue the rouble. They are also worried that the country's economic malaise may deter investors in eastern Europe, taking a toll on financial markets and bringing the region's economic travails closer to Germany's borders.

ABN to take over Brazilian bank in £1bn deal

BY LEA PATERSON

ABN Amro, the acquisitive Dutch bank, is to take over one of Brazil's leading banks in a £1.1bn (£1.36bn) deal, the biggest acquisition in ABN's history.

The Dutch bank is buying a controlling stake in Banco Real, the number four bank in Brazil. The deal will give ABN a third regional hub in addition to its American Midwest and Dutch operations. The group has long held expansionary ambitions in Latin America, and was widely expected to make some kind of acquisition following a recent failed attempt to take over the Belgian Generale Bank.

Jan Kalff, chief executive of ABN, said: "Banco Real makes a perfect strategic fit with ABN Amro Bank's existing operations in Brazil. We are impressed with Banco Real's well-established reputation as a... traditional bank."

ABN is paying \$2.1bn for a 40 per cent stake in Banco Real, and will partly finance the acquisition through the issue of \$1.0bn in preference shares.

Mr Kalff said he expected the deal to generate more than \$100m of cost synergies and predicted that ABN's Brazilian operations would earn a pre-tax profit of around \$1.2bn by 2001.

The ABN chief said he was still eyeing other acquisitions to bolster the bank's international credentials. Some of the possible purchases were in Europe, he said, but added that no other deals were imminent.

ABN lost out to Fortis earlier this year in the bidding war for Generale Bank, and also failed in its attempt to buy the French CIC Bank.

John Leonard, banking analyst at Salomon Smith Barney, said: "It makes good strategic sense. It's a market they know well... and [it] should have a lot of opportunities for them."

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Capital Citybus sells out

EIGHT senior executives of Capital Citybus will share £5m after selling the company yesterday to First Group, the acquisitive passenger transport group formed in 1995. Capital Citybus operates bus routes in east London.

Brendan Glyde and Leon Daniels, joint managing directors of Capital Citybus, will receive cash and shares worth over £2m each. The other six members of the management team will share a further £2m in cash.

The team agreed to sell Capital Citybus, which has been operating since 1988, for £14.1m, including £11.5m in cash and 580,600 of new First Group shares worth £2.57m. Lloyds

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

Development Capital, which helped set up Capital Citybus, will sell its 47.5 per cent stake and its preference shares for £7.3m in cash. The management team will receive £6.7m for its 52.5 per cent share stake.

No closures or redundancies are planned and the management team is staying on to run the operations as part of First Group's London and South-east Bus division.

Capital Citybus has 267 buses with an average age of just over seven years. It operates 41 routes, including 10 new routes awarded in the year to the end of April. Current annualised turnover

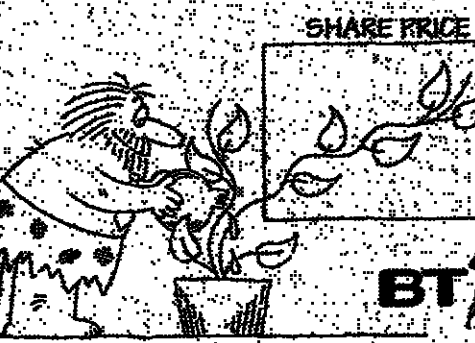
is estimated at £28m. It made a small profit last year and was expected to break even this year after financing investment. It is likely to make an operating profit of around £1m in its new year to April 1998.

First Group's London bus division, Centre West, has 730 buses and operates in the west of the capital and the West End.

The deal is subject to the approval of the Office of Fair Trading. If approved, it will raise First Group's share of the London bus market from 12 to 17 per cent, ranking it third after Arriva and Stagecoach and roughly equal with Go Ahead. First Group shares, which have doubled in the past 12 months, rose 4p to 442.5p.

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SHORTS

Housebuilders on firm foundations

BUILDERS, battered and bruised as higher interest rates halted the housing boom before it really got under way, were given a helping hand by Merrill Lynch.

As the stock market fretted that interest rates may today be pushed even higher by the Monetary Policy Committee, the powerful investment house suggested that the shares of most housebuilders were now a buy. It adopted a "buy" position because it felt the long slide had left housebuilding shares undervalued.

Barratt Developments climbed 6p to 254.5p. Redrow 4p to 145.5p and Bellway 11.5p to 305p. Each remains below its year's high. Barratt hit 341p in May, Redrow 198p in March and Bellway 401.5p in May. The Merrill upgrades occurred a day after Berkeley, the upmarket housebuilder, unsettled the sector, although its profits were up 34 per cent to £100m with Merrill predicting £120m this year. "What we're saying is that even with a rate increase, builder stocks are worth holding on to," said analyst Mark Hake.

After a drab session, Footsie managed to make headway in the

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

last 30 minutes, ending with a 6.2-point gain to 6,009.6. It has now achieved a six-day winning streak. The mid cap index was also higher, but once again small cap shares were in the doldrums, producing another losing display.

Not for the first time RMC, the building materials group, appeared to be the victim of rogue trades. The last order book trade, which represents the official closing price, was at 960p. But two later market maker trades were at 1,000p and 984p. The 960p trade was for only 726 shares.

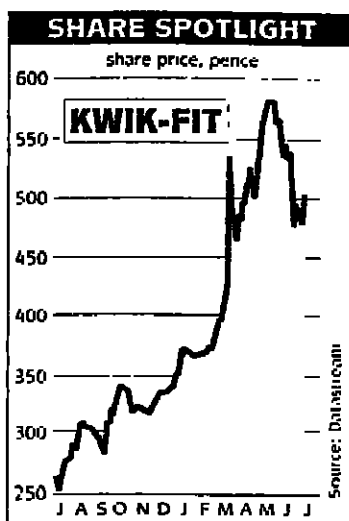
The 960p close indicates an 83p fall (almost 8 per cent) on the day. RMC is a Footsie constituent, so the maverick trade will have distorted the final calculation.

BSkyB was the best performing blue chip; the satellite broadcaster rose 28p to 480p. An unexpectedly cheerful trading statement from Scottish & Newcastle, the brewing group, lifted the shares 36p to 818p. Dixons, the electrical retailer, headed the mid caps with a 66p charge to 547p after producing profits at the top of the market forecast range and reporting current sales were not as bad as many had feared.

SmithKline Beecham was given another takeover whirl, up 17.5p after 27p to 784.5p. For once it was US group Merck in the frame and not Glaxo Wellcome, up 32p to 1,838p.

British Airways was lowered 5p to 686p following the EU's highly conditional clearance on its link with American Airlines, and BAA, the airports group, hardened 11p to 664p after CSE was thought to have hoisted its target to 737p.

BT was at one time up 29p on Brussels's clearance of the World-



Com/MCI deal. The shares, as profit-takers moved in, ended unchanged at 805p. If, as seems likely, MCI is taken over by BT will cash in its share stake and will, many believe, make a £3bn cash distribution to shareholders.

Other telecoms paused for breath. Energis fell 55p to 1,012.5p after Morgan Stanley marginally lowered its enthusiasm. National

Grid, which controls Energis, managed to end with a modest gain at 435p. ScottishPower shaded 19p to 602p and Orange was hit 31.5p to 706.5p.

Reuters, the information group, rose 11p to 685p with Schroders suggesting an 800p target, and Prudential Corporation added 28p to 829p with Lehman Brothers offering buy advice. Kwik-Fit, the tyres and exhausts group, accelerated 24.5p to 502p after SBC Warburg put a 600p tag on the shares. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson was also thought to be positive.

Leisure shares, recently riding high, remained depressed with the counter attraction of the World Cup continuing to erode investor confidence. Rank fell 10p to 315p.

Sports retailers also looked ragged on stories of piles of unsold England World Cup shirts stuck on shelves. JJB Sports, 822.5p in February, fell 28p to 429.5p, and Blacks Leisure 5.5p to 285p.

Anite, the once disaster-ridden Cray Electronics, improved 15.5p to 74.5p. Now a computer services group, it returned to profits, mounted a £9.5m bid for a Dutch group

and is back on the dividend list. Mentmore Abbey, the business support group, firmed 2p to 90p following results and despite a 1 million share sale by Schroders Investment Management.

Touchstone, an accountancy software business placed at 105p, closed at 128.5p. On Ofex, Coronation International Mining, placed at 20p, ended at 22.5p. Stockbroker BWD rose 15.5p to 235.5p with interim profits of £2.9m against £1.5m.

Profits warnings were again a factor. Infobank, an electronic group, firmed 80p to 210p following a warning results would be "significantly" below the £3.6m the market expected and Treats, an ice-cream group, melted 25p to 68.5p after reporting its sales had been decimated by the June wash-out.

Penna, the recruitment group, jumped 43p to 273.5p after a £12m IT recruitment acquisition and profits of £1.8m against £648,000.

BTG, the technology group, put on 60p to 897.5p.

SEAG VOLUME: 825.1m
SEAG TRADES: 62,337
GILTS INDEX: 105.04 -0.12

STOCKBROKER Williams de Broe expects the John Lusty food group to achieve profits of £3.45m this year compared with £1.9m the last time around.

For next year the forecast is £4.1m and then £4.7m. Says analyst David Hallam: "The group will be grown both organically, by plugging new products into its distribution network, and by acquisition." Lusty distributes such lines as Hershey confectionery and San Pallegrino mineral waters.

The shares held at 11p, capitalising the company at £24m. Mr Hallam rates them a buy.

XENOVA, a loss-making drugs group, tumbled down 25p to 100p, a new low price, on a single deal. With the price stuck at 125p, a trade in 35,000 shares was completed at 100p.

The shares have been as high as 435p. They were floated at 215p a share in December 1996.

Why Dixons' sales fall is good news

THE 66p jump in Dixons' share price yesterday was due to relief more than anything else. After January's profits alert when the company warned of poor Christmas sales, shares in Britain's largest electrical retailer have been weak, leading to Dixons' relegation from the FTSE 100.

With fears growing about higher interest rates and a slowing economy, the City remembered that Dixons was up against phenomenally high sales comparisons last summer when it had been a major beneficiary of the Halifax windfall bonanza.

But Dixons has performed much more robustly than many anticipated. Its like-for-like sales are down only 10 per cent in current trading against a 17 per cent rise last year. And full-year profits up 14 per cent to £217m before exceptional items were at the top end of expectations. The underlying conclusion is that after being oversold ahead of these figures, Dixons shares still look cheap even after yesterday's bounce.

Price deflation in computers has hit margins but enabled sales to rise. Growth has already returned since Christmas, with PC sales up by 10 to 12 per cent even though prices are down by a fifth. Higher margin accessories and peripherals are already taking a growing share of sales.

The 100 new stores planned across the group will add to Dixons' dominance of the sector, and The Link mobile communications stores and PC World direct business are growing well.

While there is still room to grow in its core market, the Dixons chief executive, John Clare, is thinking of other opportunities. These could be in UK retailing, such as in household products, or overseas. It would be no surprise if Dixons decided to take PC World into France.

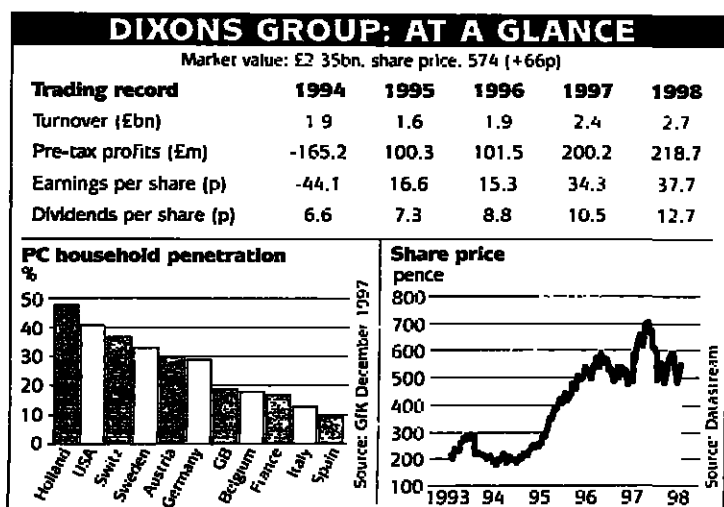
With a host of new products coming on stream thanks to digital technology, Dixons looks well placed. On SG Securities' current-year profit forecast of £240m the shares, which closed at 547p, trade on a forward rating of 14. Buy.

S&N bucks a downbeat trend

SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE seems to be a lone optimist in a downbeat sector. Yesterday's statement by the UK's largest brewer that it has

INVESTMENT

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN



seen no downturn in pub trading and that it expects a strong year as sweet music for shareholders. The stock had lost more than 8 per cent in a week, hit by a number of gloomy statements about slowing consumer spending from pub operators such as Greenalls, Regent Inns and Wolverhampton & Dudley.

S&N shares duly rebounded, closing up 36p to 818p, even though profits of £422m, up 13 per cent, fell short of market expectations.

S&N's optimism looks well-founded. On the brewing side, more than 60 per cent of sales come from six premium brands, including the best-selling bitter John Smith's and Foster's Lager. These yield high margins and are relatively immune to lower consumer spending as customers are unwilling to trade down.

On the pub side, S&N is reaping the benefits of years of careful site selection. Less than one-third of its estate is now on the high street, making the company less vulnerable to the economic cycle than some competitors. Its so-called community pubs, usually located in less affluent areas, can be expected to fare reasonably well even in a recession.

The only black spot is S&N's leisure interests, made up of the Pontins and Centre Parcs holiday camps, which posted another disappointing result this year. But they account for only a small share of earnings.

The shares trade on a multiple of around 14 times the market consensus of a 245pm profit in 1999, a hefty discount. Good value.

Everything is going FT's way

FI GROUP, the information technology outsourcing company, needed good results yesterday to justify its sky-high rating. The figures were stunning: in the year to April, pre-tax profits rose 62 per cent to £10.7m, despite the company paying out £4m in bonuses. The shares, which have risen eight-fold in two years, put on 115p to close at a new high of 1,830p.

Everything is going FT's way. It is picking up new long-term contracts, as a recent joint venture with Bank of Scotland shows. Its Indian subsidiary, acquired for £26m in December, allows FI to farm out work to cheaper Indian programmers. And having already benefited from the millennium date change - which accounted for 15 per cent of revenues last year - it is now cashing in by preparing customers' systems for European Monetary Union.

How long will it last? Despite well-publicised staff shortages in IT, there is no sign of any immediate threat to FT's success. In the longer term, it will need to replace the millennium and euro work with other projects. Chief executive Hillary Cropper plans to expand into the network management, staffing and enterprise resource planning software businesses.

Profit forecasts of £16m put the shares on a demanding earnings multiple of 57. But conventional valuations no longer matter: the shares are worth holding.

IN BRIEF

£1.6m for Hillier Parker partners

TWENTY SEVEN partners at Hillier Parker May & Rowden, the UK property services group, will net an average of £1.6m each after deciding to sell out to the American firm CB Richard Ellis.

The US real-estate company is also setting up an incentive programme to retain key staff that could be worth up to £7.5m over three years. The American company said the deal would help satisfy the demand from clients for an international service. Robert Farnes, Hillier Parker's senior partner, will become chairman of CB Hillier Parker.

Torotrak's rights

TOROTRAK, a subsidiary of BTG which makes infinitely variable automatic gearbox systems for motor vehicles, will raise £50m through a 5-for-29 rights issue at 300p as soon as it is demerged from its parent company later this year.

Shareholders in BTG will be given one share in Torotrak plus the right to subscribe to the rights issue for each share they hold in BTG. If the demerger is approved at an EGM on 24 July, the nil-paid rights are expected to start trading around 47p alongside the Torotrak shares on 27 July.

Hanson profits

HANSON, the specialised building materials group which remained after the demerger last year of its other businesses, is set for a good year, according to a trading statement issued yesterday.

In the year to end March it made £224.7m before exceptional items. The current year has started well in the United States and the UK, although sales have since been affected by the bad weather. Andrew Dougal, chief executive of the company, said yesterday that first-half figures are due to be released on 10 September.

£27m for Daejan

DAEJAN, the property group, made profits of £27.1m in the year to 31 March, an increase of 11 per cent.

A 7 per cent rise in net rental income to £30.1m and a 13 per cent drop in the surplus on trading property sales to £6.6m was balanced by a 3 per cent rise in operating costs, a 70 per cent rise in the surplus on the sale of investment properties and a small fall in interest charges. The shares were unchanged at 1710p.

Wood takes his turn at the ITN table

MARK WOOD, editor-in-chief of Reuters, has been appointed chairman of ITN. He succeeds Sir David English, chairman and editor-in-chief of Associated Newspapers, who died suddenly on 10 June.

The chairmanship of ITN is rotated amongst its six owners, which include Carlton Communications and the Granada Group. Reuters holds 20 per cent and Mr Wood is the second non-ITN shareholder to hold the position.

Mr Wood is an experienced overseas correspondent for Reuters, having joined the news service in 1976. In his time he has reported from Vienna, East Berlin, Moscow and Bonn. He returned to London, first as European Editor and then, from 1989, as Editor-in-Chief.

ANDREW GIFFORD, the man who runs GJW, one of the lobbying firms in the "cash for access" row, is blissfully unaware of the fuss; he's on a fishing trip to Alaska.

GJW leapt to prominence courtesy of The Observer's report last Sunday. The paper said one of GJW's employees, Karl Milner, had sent a copy of a recent report on energy policy by the Select Committee on Trade and Industry to a third party. Mr Milner had obtained a copy of the report one day ahead of publication, by visiting the House of Commons offices at 7 Millbank, where copies were freely available.

The story has caused no end of stink, but it will all be news to Mr Gifford when he returns from his holiday. He left for Alaska late last week before the row broke. There are no faxes or phones where Mr Gifford is fishing. As a result, even his own people can't contact him.

SUN LIFE and Provincial Holdings has poached Andy Homer from Commercial Union's general insurance side to be the new chief executive of its British property and casualty subsidiary, AXA Provincial Insurance.

Many of Mr Homer's colleagues

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK



in the "marzipan layer" of management just below board level in CU are seeking new jobs following the merger with General Accident.

The lucky Mr Homer will join AXA, which owns Sun Life and Provincial, in August.

KAREN JONES, who co-founded the ubiquitous Cafe Rouge and Dome restaurant chains and then sold them to Whitbread two years ago, is leaving the brewery group to start up on her own again.

Ms Jones has resigned as managing director of Pelican Group, wholly owned by Whitbread, which includes 146 assorted Domes, Rouges, Mamma Amalfis and sundry other restaurants. She will be replaced by Mike Johnson, currently managing director of another Whitbread chain, TGI Friday's.

Ms Jones says she has still not decided what she is going to do yet, other than take four months off to clear her head. "Then I'll start something next January, in the restaurant line," she says.

Karen and her business partner Roger Myers sold their original restaurant company Theme, in 1988, and launched the very first Cafe Rouge with their own money in Richmond in 1989.

"Originally, our plan was to open eight of them. It was fortuitous starting in a recession, because our

whole idea was to offer value for money meals", she says.

In 1994 they re-bought the Dome chain, which they had launched with Courage in the mid '80s, and used a £20m rights issue to expand further, before selling up to Whitbread in 1996.

Mr Myers is also keeping busy. Nomura have just given him 2,000 pubs to run. When do these people sleep?

IS THIS further evidence of disarray at Arthur Andersen, the accountancy giant in divorce proceedings with its consultancy side? Julia Chain has informed her partners at Garretts, the law firm, which is associated with Andersen, that she will not be seeking re-election as managing partner.

She said yesterday that she has decided to leave private practice, and will be gone before the end of the year.

Andersen recently broke off advanced merger talks with Wilde Sapte, a City law firm. If the Wilde Sapte link-up had gone ahead, observers had wondered whether there would still be a role within the Andersen empire for La Chain.

LORD WEINSTOCK's daughter-in-law Laura, widow of Simon, has popped up as a non-executive director of Mallett, the stratospherically upmarket antique dealer in New Bond Street.

The former GEC boss, who retired from the defence giant two years ago, bought a 29.9 per cent stake in Mallett last May.

The latest move will certainly give Laura Weinstock a new role. She will be rubbing shoulders with Mohammed Fayed, the owner of Harrods, who was Mallett's biggest shareholder until Lord Weinstock bought in.

Ms Weinstock will feel quite at home. She regularly shops at Mallett's, and used to work in the English pictures department at Christie's.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Country	Sterling Spot	1 month	3 month	Dollar Spot	1 month	3 month	D-Mark Spot
UK	1.0000			0.6111	0.6122	0.6144	0.3360
Australia	1.6599	2.6528	2.6439	1.6236	1.6239	1.6244	0.8928
Canada	1.5175	2.0887	2.0804	1.2769	1.2782	1.2784	0.7034
France	1.3630	61.119	60.890	37.485	37.421	37.288	20.613
Germany	1.3630	61.119	60.890	37.485	37.421	37.288	20.613
Italy	1.3630	61.119	60.890	37.485	37.421	37.288	20.613
Japan	1.3630	61.119	60.890	37.485	37.421	37.288	20.613
Netherlands	1.3630	61.119	60.890	37.485	37.421	37.288	20.613
Sweden	1.3630	61.119	60.890	37.485	37.421	37.288	20.613
Switzerland	1.3630	61.119	60.890	37.485	37.421	37.288	20.613
US	1.3630	61.119	60.890	37.485	37.421	37.288	20.613

INTEREST RATES

Country	3 month	1 year	2 year	5 year	10 year	30 year
Australia	4.94	0.01	52.35	47.35	52.49	47.36
Belgium	3.62	0.00	3.86	0.00	4.05	0.02
Canada	4.00	0.01	5.16	-0.01	5.12	-0.01
ECU	4.18	0.01	4.17	-0.02	4.02	0.06
France	0.00	0.00	3.64	0.00	4.02	0.01
Germany	3.55	0.01	3.86	0.01	3.95	0.02
Italy	4.75	0.10	4.04	0.02	4.35	-0.02
Japan	0.42	0.01	0.44	0.01	0.54	0.03
Netherlands	3.53	0.00	3.84	0.02	3.99	0.00
Spain	4.22	0.01	4.04	-0.04	4.15	-0.01
Sweden	2.16	0.00	4.18	0.00	4.27	0.00
Switzerland	1.13	0.06	2.27	0.05	2.13	0.00
UK	7.40	0.05	8.00	0.00	6.94	0.03
US	4.94	0.02	5.05	-0.01	5.43	0.00

BOND YIELDS

Country	3 month	1 year	2 year	5 year	10 year	30 year
Australia	4.94	0.01	52.35	47.35	52.49	47.36
Belgium	3.62	0.00	3.86	0.00	4.05	0.02
Canada	4.00	0.01	5.16	-0.01	5.12	-0.01
ECU	4.18	0.01	4.17	-0.02	4.02	0.06
France	0.00	0.00	3.64	0.00	4.02	0.01
Germany	3.55	0.01	3.86	0.01	3.95	0.02
Italy	4.75	0.10	4.04	0.02	4.35	-0.02
Japan	0.42	0.01	0.44	0.01	0.54	0.03
Netherlands	3.53	0.00	3.84	0.02	3.99	0.00
Spain	4.22	0.01	4.04	-0.04	4.15	-0.01
Sweden	2.16	0.00	4.18	0.00	4.27	0.00
Switzerland	1.13	0.06	2.27	0.05	2.13	0.00
UK	7.40	0.05	8.00	0.00	6.94	0.03
US	4.94	0.02	5.05	-0.01	5.43	0.00

LIFFE FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Settlement	High	Low	volume
96	108.55	108.95	108.40	49938.00
98	102.30	103.00	102.90	789.00
99	108.77	108.95	108.67	9382.00
100	120.82	121.05	120.96	25426.00
99	132.90	132.60	132.34	2262.00
99	92.11	92.11	92.07	23114.00
99	92.11	92.14	92.10	23114.00
99	96.42			
99	96.38	96.39	96.37	35577.00
98	95.61	95.62	95.58	19624.00
98	96.07	96.08	96.04	9133.00
99	96.26			
99	97.34	97.94	97.94	7915.00
99	97.74	97.75	97.68	4809.00
99	96.87			
99	96.87	95.89	95.85	241.00
98	6042.00	6690.00	6030.00	17301.00
CME FINE TON 100 INDEX OPTION				
0				
Pur	Aug	Call	Pur	0
12	425	63	498	107
5	25	4	460	150
16	24	349	42	134
12	23	312	97	147

SPORT

British Grand Prix: After seven sparse years, misunderstood McLaren are putting up a colourful fight for the crown

Dennis in drive to paint the title grey

Strict work ethic and a dour image hide the true nature of a determined team who can party with the best. By Derick Allsop

WANDER DOWN the Formula One paddock and a first glimpse of some of the motor homes might confirm a few pre-conceived notions. Ferrari: flame red, flamboyant, passionate. Jordan: screaming yellow brash, fun. McLaren: grey. Shades of grey. And very smart. But still grey.

Rightly or wrongly, for better or worse, McLaren are perceived as the stern face of grand prix racing, the automatons who, in tandem with Mercedes, have managed to grind their way back to the forefront.

Ron Dennis' team lead the constructors' championship and the drivers' championship in the person of Mika Hakkinen - at the half-way stage of the season and should have a performance advantage in the British Grand Prix at Silverstone on Sunday.

Dennis, a former mechanic, makes no apologies for McLaren's strict work ethic and fastidiousness. Seven years of relative obscurity have intensified his resolve to regain pre-eminence.

"While we are here we are working," he says. "I see the paddock, the motor homes, the garages as the team's office. I don't care about the criticism that's directed at myself or the team. I expect everybody when they are in their office to be doing their job above all else."

"For me image is important. We can't win all the races, but we can look the best."

However, he rebuffs the accusation that his team are a cold, uncaring community, unable to laugh and cry with the rest.

"There are, as there are in an office, the coffee-breaks, the lunch-breaks and they tend to be consolidated into the post-circuit evenings. We tend to work hard, play hard, and try, and sometimes fail, to bear in mind we've got to go into the office the next day."

Those who have parted with Dennis will testify to his stamina. Some of his fabled practical jokes, aided and abetted by the former driver, Gerhard Berger, are credited with helping Ayrton Senna discover a sense of humour.

"Ayrton didn't know the concept of a practical joke till he joined the team," Dennis says, with relish.

There is a widely held belief that too much care and attention is lavished on Hakkinen and not enough on the other driver, David Coulthard, thereby undermining his prospects of challenging for the championship.

Dennis replies: "Of course there's a special relationship with Mika. That comes from the fact that he's been with the team longer and he's sustained injuries in an accident in

one of our cars, even if it was caused by debris puncturing the tyre, which allowed us the consolation that it wasn't our fault. And if the driver recovers and returns to form, and if you are human, you can't possibly not have that in your mind."

"But, it absolutely does not have any relevance to whether each driver receives equality of equipment and support, and if you are in Formula One as a driver you should have the strength of character to understand and cope with these sorts of issues. I know David has that strength of character."

Dennis maintains he has no plans to throw the team effort behind Hakkinen, who heads Ferrari's Michael Schumacher by a fragile six points and Coulthard by 20.

"We're a long way from needing a strategic approach," Dennis said. "The team's primary goal is the constructors' championship. I would prefer as many race wins as possible, even if it was detrimental to one of our drivers' chances of winning the world championship."

Having said that, that's the best environment for the drivers as well, because we are offering each driver equality, the opportunity to demonstrate he's better than his teammate."

Dennis is equally adamant that Coulthard and Hakkinen should feel confident that they will be retained next season, even if he does not absolutely rule out the possibility of a move for Schumacher.

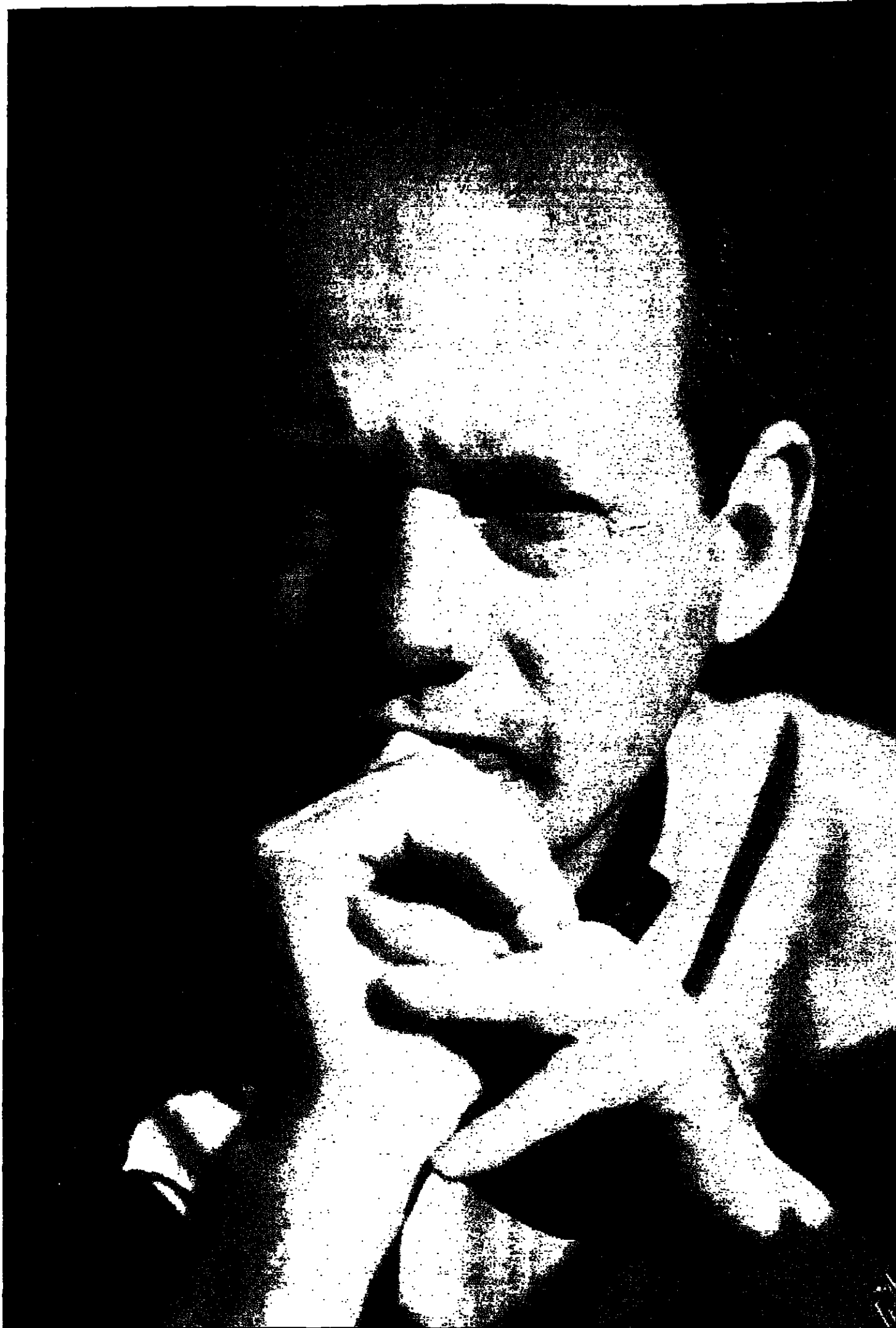
"Historically this team has demonstrated fierce loyalty to its drivers, and David and Mika should feel more comfortable than any other drivers in any other team. That has to be qualified by recognising we exist to win, and if necessary we will take difficult decisions."

"If Michael is available and assuming we are in a contractual position to consider it, we will consider it, because it's our job. But that situation doesn't exist at the moment, so it's academic. We've got a stable environment we've got, and we don't really want to change it."

Damon Hill suspects Dennis had no intention of changing his driver line-up when they negotiated last summer. The inference was that the English driver received an offer he had to refuse.

Dennis counters: "There was a possibility he could have been a driver of this team. Why spend hours of discussions if there was a decision already made?"

McLaren's proposal - said to have been \$1.5m (£0.9m), plus \$1m a win for up to four wins - was considered



Ron Dennis: 'I see the paddock, the motor homes, the garages as the team's office. I expect everyone to be doing his job' Allsop

by Hill to be derisory and talks were terminated. He subsequently joined Jordan.

Dennis says: "I think the offer, taking everything into consideration, should have been accepted. If people don't convince us their primary goal is to win races, there is no place for them in this team. Simple as that."

The McLaren boss is still less impressed with Hill's barbed comments suggesting "corporate McLaren" restrain Coulthard and Hakkinen from speaking their minds and enjoying their success this season.

"I hope he enjoys not winning

races," Dennis responded. "I don't think he's a particularly happy person at the moment. I have a healthy respect for many aspects of Damon, but I think you should focus on what your primary goals are, and that is to win races."

"If, for example, I thought our drivers could enhance their ability to win a grand prix by standing on one leg for half an hour a day and I could give them a valid reason to do so, I would expect them to do it, because that's what we're about."

"What our drivers receive is guidance: this is the advantage of adopting this approach. This is the

disadvantage of adopting that. We're not automated individuals with our corporate media people behind the drivers with their hands up their backs pulling strings. We're not trying to de-colour them."

Dennis, at the age of 51, has steered his team back on a championship course for the first time since 1991 when McLaren won the last of their six constructors' titles under his command. He resists anticipation of success, but not because of the growing threat and trumpeted confidence of Schumacher and Ferrari.

"We're entering the second half

of the season with a measurable advantage, which can quickly disappear if you have unreliability," he says. "I'm more concerned about that than Schumacher, because it's something we have control over."

"Michael's optimism is part of his psychological approach. It doesn't work at all, either with our drivers or the team."

"Over the 30 odd years I've spent in motorsport, I've often become embroiled in the psychological approach drivers bring to their own efforts, and it's wasted on us. We know where we're going."

Schumacher 'puts others at risk' says Villeneuve

JACQUES VILLENEUVE criticised Michael Schumacher yesterday for "taking risks" which jeopardised drivers' safety. His comments came in the run-up to Sunday's British Grand Prix, which could prove crucial to his rival's title hopes.

Villeneuve, the outgoing world champion after a season of comparative failure with Williams, has kept up the pressure on Schumacher, who is one of the drivers' bidding to inherit his crown.

The 27-year-old Villeneuve claimed Schumacher was on "Planet Michael" after the German added to the growing list of controversial collisions in which he has been involved in Canada last month.

Villeneuve, who Schumacher knocked off the track in their title decider last year, said: "Taking risks for yourself is one thing, putting other people at risk is another thing. It goes beyond what I believe is acceptable."

"The line to follow is: don't do something you wouldn't want other people to do to you."

"If you believe nothing can happen to you and you are a higher being than everybody else then I guess you are allowed to do anything you want."

Schumacher was stripped of his second place overall in the drivers' world championship standing as a result of his coming together with Villeneuve and his conduct on the track last season and this has also failed to impress the fans. The German is a dangerous driver, according to almost half of the replies gathered in answer to a question on a Formula One website.

Asked "Is Michael Schumacher a dangerous driver?" by the international Formula1.com site, 47 per cent of the 4,111 voters said "yes".

Schumacher is hardly flavour of the month in Britain at the moment, having had a much-publicised spat with Damon Hill after the Canadian Grand Prix.

That race also saw Schumacher involved in an incident in which his Ferrari emerged from the pit lane and almost forced the Williams of Heinz-Harald Frentzen off the track. He received a 10-second penalty but still went on to win. Frentzen has since called for Schumacher to resign from the drivers' union, the Grand Prix Drivers' Association.

Villeneuve, talking of Schumacher's title hopes, said: "Michael already has two championships, so it would be good if someone else got it this time."

The Monaco-based driver will be attempting an improbable hat-trick at Silverstone after a season in which his best result in eight races is fourth.

But Villeneuve, victorious seven times last year, admits that despite being 39 points behind the leader Mika Hakkinen he has relished this campaign more than last year even though he has not been as successful.

"The driving side of it, the racing has been a lot of fun," said Villeneuve, who looks set to join British American Racing next season. "I've been going off more than last year and if anything the races have almost been more physical because we've had to be on the limit."

"I've worked harder than last year and so have the team. When you get out of the car and you've finished sixth and you've sweated that much for just one point then it becomes annoying."

Abominable Showman ready for rematch

THE PLAN was to meet Chris Eubank in a tent on Bodmin Moor. It didn't quite turn out like that. "I don't do cheap stunts," Eubank said, much to the dismay of the Sky camera crew. Instead he entertained at a luxury, exclusive resort called Huxstyns, deep in the Cornish countryside.

The philosopher-cum-fighter is preparing for a rematch with Carl Thompson for the WBO World Cruiserweight Championship at the Sheffield Arena a week on Saturday. Eubank lost the initial collision in Manchester last April but won friends for a performance described as gutsy and heroic. Giving away more than half a stone, he finished the fight spitting blood and with his left eye closed. He underwent two brain scans. His trademark monocle did not sit comfortably on the black eye but his brain escaped further punishment.

"It was a good result," he said. "but not one I wanted." Eubank has dispensed with the services of his trainer, the New York taxi driver Max-

imo Pierrot and will do the job himself. "I feel much more comfortable. This time I've got nothing to be apprehensive about. People say I took a lot of punishment but I don't think that and I certainly don't feel that. Apart from my eye, no other part of my body was hurt. I wasn't knocked down and I wasn't concussed."

"This time I'll win within six rounds. I have felt his power and he's not a concussive puncher. Not up to my standard. I have been in more exhausting fights. As you get older you learn not to waste your perspiration."

Eubank will be 32 next month and he is running out of fights. He has been in a profession he once described as a mug's game for 13 years, winning 45 contests out of 51. The problem is that Eubank needs boxing almost as much as boxing needs Eubank. "There is only one thing worse than being skint," he said, "and that's being skint and famous."

The sport, deemed politically incorrect, not to mention life threatening, seems to be, if not on its knees

Tim Glover reports from Bodmin Moor as Chris Eubank prepares for a second attempt on the WBO cruiserweight title

in this country, then taking a standing count. Name the crowd pullers: Eubank, Naseem Hamed and maybe Lemmox Lewis. That's it. They can't fill the London venues so they go to the smaller arenas in the provinces.

When Eubank was on terrestrial TV he attracted bigger audiences than football. Incidentally, watching

the World Cup on television, Eubank said: "If I was in their shoes there is no way I'd take a penalty. In boxing I would put my life on the line and I have done so, but that's a personal thing. I wouldn't want to let down the dreams of an entire country."

Eubank can still sell tickets but it's getting harder. It is understood

Tyson poised to request ring return

MIKE TYSON today becomes eligible to seek a return to the boxing ring, a year after taking a chunk out of Evander Holyfield's ear.

Marc Ratner, executive director of the Nevada Athletic Commission responsible for issuing his licence, said that if and when Tyson actually applies it will take at least another

two weeks to set up a hearing for the commission to decide his fate.

One of Tyson's new advisers, Shelly Finkel, has said that no decision has been made on when to apply for a new licence, but Tyson was training for a possible return.

Finkel believes Tyson will apply some time in July and expects the

commission to look favourably on the request because Tyson has stayed out of trouble.

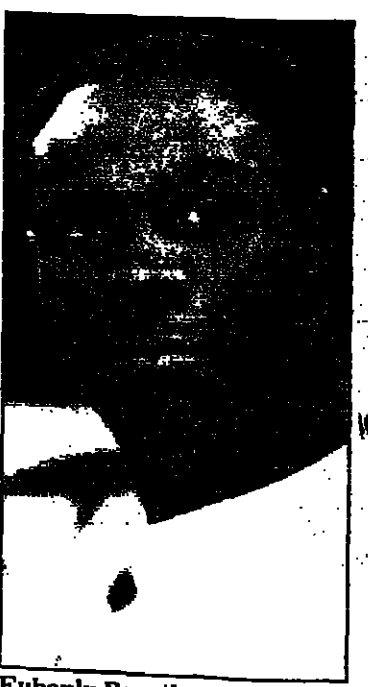
Tyson could make his comeback in October or November if given the go-ahead. He was originally banned and fined £1.8m after referee Mills Lane disqualified him in the third round for two biting offences.

about power and you never get what you want. After money you want respect. That is what I've been bloody trying to acquire for the last six years. I want to be honoured."

What Eubank wants is to go to Buckingham Palace and receive a gong. And he is exasperated that he is misunderstood and inaccurately portrayed: "I have always been a showman but I never dress for effect, never talk for effect and I never do anything for column inches," he said. "I wear my heart on my sleeve."

Meanwhile, he had to interrupt his training to provide column inches for the Thompson fight. Unfortunately the Abominable Showman did not meet the Beast of Bodmin, just a miniature pinscher called Blackjack.

Nothing, however, could deter Sky. Over at the St Moritz Hotel in Trebovir they put up a tent in the grounds and made believe, all in the interests of entertainment, that Eubank and the Beast were on the Moor. God forbid that Eubank should ever hold court on Loch Ness.



Eubank: Beastly mood

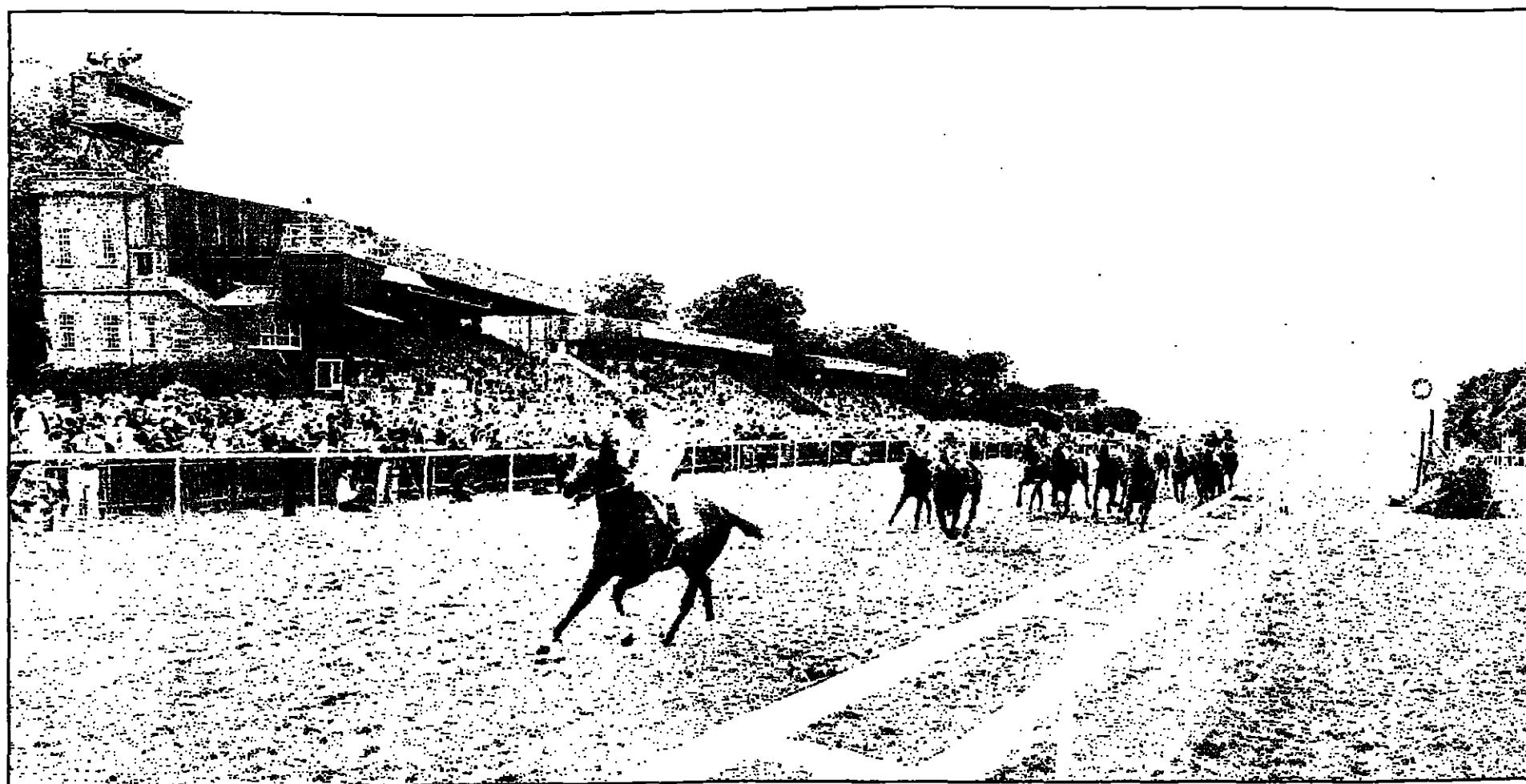
Schumacher
'puts other
at risk' says
Villeneuve

Boris Becker, now a part-time player, returned to the ATP Tour yesterday, showing his determination against Switzerland's Georges Bastl during their first-round match at the Swiss Open in Gstaad. Becker was victorious in three sets

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WHATEVER YOU'RE INTO

INTERSPORT



Lovers Knot and John Reid finish clear of their pursuers in the Falmouth Stakes at Newmarket yesterday

Robert Hallam

Lovers Knot ties up field

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON
at Newmarket

GRAVE COMPLICATIONS emerged for the Cheveley Park Stud here yesterday when they collected first and third in the Falmouth Stakes with Lovers Knot and Flawless. The team, which also possesses the Coronation Stakes winner Exclusive, is now running out of top mile races in which to place their three flying fillies. Problems, problems.

It did not appear that the permutation would be so tortuous after the start of yesterday's Group Two contest. Lovers Knot not so much sprang from the stalls rather than oozed. It transpired, however, this was nothing more than a sporting gesture in a field of 13, the biggest for the race for at least 20 years.

Lovers Knot did have one corridor taped off when La Nuit Rose carried the main body over to the far rail, but it was a manoeuvre which merely delayed the inevitable. John Reid's mount sliced through the centre and was three lengths clear and extending when she crossed another tape, that at the finishing line.

"I had a run up the inner the whole race and then, all of a sudden, the whole field moved across to the fence," the jockey reported. "Somebody decided to do a left-hander on me and I had to look for different route. But when I gave her the message she took off. She absolutely cantered up. She's a lovely filly."

Sir Michael Stoute, the winning trainer, was pleasantly surprised by the manner of

victory. "I was hoping she would win today but she was more impressive than I imagined so we'll have to stop and review the situation," he said.

Chris Richardson, Cheveley Park's racing manager, was able to think a little more quickly on his feet and nominated the Celebration Mile at Goodwood and Deauville's Prix Jacques de Marois as future possibilities.

"She's a heavy, rather masculine filly and she's been given lots of time to come to herself," Richardson said. "She got tired at Royal Ascot [when third in the Jersey Stakes] and that was the real her we saw today. The time of the race is indicative of her natural ability."

The time of the race was actually a course record and Lovers Knot was not the first to lower a previous mark. Hit-

man did the same earlier over the granite ground. If there had been contrailows in operation, the track would have been just like a motorway.

Hitman's win ended the eight-strong winning streak of Lady Rockstar, whose challenge evaporated when she collided so solidly with Imishaway's bottom that she almost ended up on the floor. By then Hitman, like all thorough members of his profession, had made his decisive intervention and fled.

The renewal of the oldest two-year-old contest in the world, the July Stakes, went to the only horse in the affair which had not previously won a race, John Gosden's Bertolini.

This is a Group Three event, which has in the past been won by Tom Cannon, Lester Piggott's riding great-grand-

father, and Gustavus, the first grey to capture the Derby. Bertolini will not be matching that achievement as he is a sprinter pure and simple. He looks, though, as if he might be more than useful in that sphere.

A furlong out, Frankie Dettori's mount was stitched to the rail with no obvious passage available. The Italian consequently shuffled to the outside and was then carried forward on a surge of acceleration so strong that he was able to take a pull before the line.

"He's not a superstar but he's a bloody nice colt right now," John Gosden, the winning trainer, said. "He's a real athletic colt with a sweet attitude and a good mind on him. I thought coming from last was asking him a big question, but

Frankie said he had a lot of horse."

Bertolini's athleticism was evidenced at the Royal meeting. "He jumped going on to the road in the Coventry [Stakes] and jumped coming off it, so he took two flights of hurdles at Ascot," Gosden added.

This was not the only trainer's mind wandering off to National Hunt racing. When Generous Rosi returned from his success John Dunlop concurred with the observation that this chunky individual would not be out of place over jumps. "Wouldn't he make a Triumph Hurdle horse?" he said. But as the floral baskets swung in the summer breeze and the winners were greeted with drawing-room applause, Cheltenham in March seemed a difficult image to conjure.

Tamarisk can sprint to acclaim

BY SUE MONTGOMERY

ONE OF racing's odder adages is "the bigger the field, the bigger the certainty", presumably based on the premise that a large number of contestants equates with a large number of no-hopers. That is not the case, though, at Newmarket this afternoon, when 20 battle-honed sprinters face the starter in the week's feature, the July Cup. The number of runners will remain a 20th century record for the season's premier six-furlong dash even if, as seems likely - the prevailing fast

his forte with a smooth defeat of Arkadian Hero.

He will have the fast ground today that his connections have been waiting for and, although a keen sort who will be in the van most of the way, also has the ability to quicken when it counts.

The July Cup is one of the few omissions in Frankie Dettori's Group One portfolio and his mount, Kahal, undone by week's feature, the July Cup. The number of runners will remain a 20th century record for the season's premier six-furlong dash even if, as seems likely - the prevailing fast

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Nap: Elmadim
(Newmarket 3.05)
NB: Safo
(Newmarket 3.40)

ground precludes the presence of well-fancied Diktat.

Horses like Lochsong and Dayjur have shown in recent years how pure, dominant speed can hold the public in thrall and the stage is wide open at the moment for a new sprinting star to emerge. My fancy is that it may be Tamarisk (3.05), who can prove a chip off the old block as he drops back in distance.

The colt's sire, Green Desert, won the July Cup 12 years ago after a second place in the very hot 2,000 Guineas won by Danzig Brave. Tamarisk, trained by Roger Charlton and ridden by the unfashionable but perfectly competent Tim Sprake, did not fare anything like as well in his edition of the Classic - as his seasonal debut, he ran far too fresh and free and beat only two after leading for six furlongs - but on his next run at Lingfield showed that sprinting was to be

The supporting card does not offer much to punters with the 20-runner Bunbury Cup next up. The locally trained Prince Babar (3.40), the mount of Pat Eddery, is offered as a tentative suggestion.

The lightly-raced seven-year-old has not won for a while but drops back to a more suitable seven furlongs after a reasonable effort over 10 at Sandown.

The Britannia Stakes winner, Plan-B (4.45), turns out again in the concluding Amcor-Handicap and John Gosden's charge should have the class to concede weight all round.

Dunwoody signs up

ROBERT OGDEN, looking to regain the National Hunt owners' title, and Richard Dunwoody, who needs only 98 more winners to break Peter Scudamore's record total of 1,678 in Britain, have announced that they will be joining forces this season. The owner also has an option to extend the Ulsterman's contract as his No 1 jockey into the 1999-2000 campaign.

The champion National Hunt owner in 1998-97, Ogden has been looking for a new rider since May when Paul Carberry decided to go freelance.

Ogden, who is also considering a second, younger jockey to work alongside Dunwoody, will have nearly 40 horses in training in the 1998-99 season, split between several trainers, including Oliver Sherwood, Gordon Richards and Martin Todhunter.

He is now set to step up his search for a private trainer to be based at his yard in Middeham - where Furdy Murphy used to train. Dunwoody meanwhile hopes to return from a niggling neck injury in two weeks time in readiness for the Galway Festival.

NEWMARKET

HYPERION
2.05 Capri 3.40 Chewit (nb)
2.35 Taradya 4.10 Commander Collins
3.05 TAMARISK (nap) 4.15 Plan-B

GOING: Good to Firm.
STALLS: Far side except for 2.05 race. DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.
Right-hand course with ten straight.
Course is SW of town on A104. Bus link from Cambridge and Newmarket stations.
ADMISSION: Club £20 (half-price 16-25-year-olds); Grandstand £10 (half-price 16-25-year-olds); Club £10 (half-price 16-25-year-olds); Members £1; first free.
LEADING TRAINERS: H Cecil 25 winners from 85 runners (success rate 29.1%); L Cumani 19-16 (16.4%); J Gosden 16-12 (14.5%); J Dunlop 17-17 (14.5%).
LEADING JOCKEYS: Pat Eddery 40 wins from 185 rides (success rate 21.6%); L Dettori 36-30 (22.4%); R Hills 30-16 (16.4%); T Quinn 15-17 (12.1%).
FAVOURITES: 1st wins in 522 races (53.5%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Always Alight (worned, 3.40); John Farnley (4.45).

2.05 BAHRAIN TROPHY (Listed) (CLASS A) £17,000
added 3YO 1m 6f 175yds Penalty Value £10,754

1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-1223-1224-1225-1226-1227-1228-1229-1230-1231-1232-1233-1234-1235-1236-1237-1238-1239-1240-1241-1242-1243-1244-1245-1246-1247-1248-1249-1250-1251-1252-1253-1254-1255-1256-1257-1258-1259-1260-1261-1262-1263-1264-1265-1266-1267-1268-1269-1270-1271-1272-1273-1274-1275-1276-1277-1278-1279-1280-1281-1282-1283-1284-1285-1286-1287-1288-1289-1290-1291-1292-1293-1294-1295-1296-1297-1298-1299-1300-1301-1302-1303-1304-1305-1306-1307-1308-1309-1310-1311-1312-1313-1314-1315-1316-1317-1318-1319-1320-1321-1322-1323-1324-1325-1326-1327-1328-1329-1330-1331-1332-1333-1334-1335-1336-1337-1338-1339-1340-1341-1342-1343-1344-1345-1346-1347-1348-1349-1350-1351-1352-1353-1354-1355-1356-1357-1358-1359-1360-1361-1362-1363-1364-1365-1366-1367-1368-1369-1370-1371-1372-1373-1374-1375-1376-1377-1378-1379-1380-1381-1382-1383-1384-1385-1386-1387-1388-1389-1390-1391-1392-1393-1394-1395-1396-1397-1398-1399-1400-1401-1402-1403-1404-1405-1406-1407-1408-1409-1410-1411-1412-1413-1414-1415-1416-1417-1418-1419-1420-1421-1422-1423-1424-1425-1426-1427-1428-1429-1430-1431-1432-1433-1434-1435-1436-1437-1438-1439-1440-1441-1442-1443-1444-1445-1446-1447-1448-1449-1450-1451-1452-1453-1454-1455-1456-1457-1458-1459-1460-1461-1462-1463-1464-1465-1466-1467-1468-1469-1470-1471-1472-1473-1474-1475-1476-1477-1478-1479-1480-1481-1482-1483-1484-1485-1486-1487-1488-1489-1490-1491-1492-1493-1494-1495-1496-1497-1498-1499-1500-1501-1502-1503-1504-1505-1506-1507-1508-1509-1510-1511-1512-1513-1514-1515-1516-1517-1518-1519-1520-1521-1522-1523-1524-1525-1526-1527-1528-1529-1530-1531-1532-1533-1534-1535-1536-1537-1538-1539-1540-1541-1542-1543-1544-1545-1546-1547-1548-1549-1550-1551-1552-1553-1554-1555-1556-1557-1558-1559-1560-1561-1562-1563-1564-1565-1566-1567-1568-1569-1570-1571-1572-1573-1574-1575-1576-1577-1578-1579-1580-1581-1582-1583-1584-1585-1586-1587-1588-1589-1590-1591-1592-1593-1594-1595-1596-1597-1598-1599-1600-1601-1602-1603-1604-1605-1606-1607-1608-1609-1610-1611-1612-1613-1614-1615-1616-1617-1618-1619-1620-1621-1622-1623-1624-1625-1626-1627-1628-1629-1630-1631-1632-1633-1634-1635-1636-1637-1638-1639-1640-1641-1642-1643-1644-1645-1646-1647-1648-1649-1650-1651-1652-1653-1654-1655-1656-1657-1658-1659-1660-1661-1662-1663-1664-1665-1666-1667-1668-1669-1670-1671-1672-1673-1674-1675-1676-1677-1678-1679-1680-1681-1682-1683-1684-1685-1686-1687-1688-1689-1690-1691-1692-1693-1694-1695-1696-1697-1698-1699-1700-1701-1702-1703-1704-1705-1706-1707-1708-1709-1710-1711-1712-1713-1714-1715-1716-1717-1718-1719-1720-1721-1722-1723-1724-1725-1726-1727-1728-1729-1730-1731-1732-1733-1734-1735-1736-1737-1738-1739-1740-1741-1742-1743-1744-1745-1746-1747-1748-1749-1750-1751-1752-1753-1754-1755-1756-1757-1758-1759-1760-1761-1762-1763-1764-1765-1766-1767-1768-1769-1770-1771-1772-1773-1774-1775-1776-1777-1778-1779-1780-1781-1782-1783-1784-1785-1786-1787-1788-1789-1790-1791-1792-1793-1794-1795-1796-1797-1798-1799-1800-1801-1802-1803-1804-1805-1806-1807-1808-1809-1810-1811-1812-1813-1814-1815-1816-1817-1818-1819-1820-1821-1822-1823-1824-1825-1826-1827-1828-1829-1830-1831-1832-1833-1834-1835-1836-1837-1838-1839-1840-1841-1842-1843-1844-1845-1846-1847-1848-1849-1850-1851-1852-1853-1854-1855-1856-1857-1858-1859-1860-1861-1862-1863-1864-1865-1866-1867-1868-1869-1870-1871-1872-1873-1874-187

Colin Montgomerie missed a three-foot putt for par on the final green, but his 72 was one better than the defending champion, and fellow ankle sufferer, Tom Lehman. With back problems afflicting Ernie Els, Tiger Woods, Davis Love and Fred Couples, the physio unit could be as busy as Clapham Junction next week.



Nicklaus added: "I certainly will miss playing in the Open. I have always loved playing the British seaside courses and competing in the British Open has regularly been one of the highlights of my year."

JACK NICKLAUS'S RECORD IN THE MAJORS: MASTERS: Played: 40. Wins: 6 (1963-65-66-72-75-86). 2nd: 4 (1964-71-77-81). Top 10s: 23. **Missed cuts:** 3. **US OPEN:** Played: 42. Wins: 4 (1962-67-72-80). 2nd: 4 (1960-68-71-82). Top 10s: 18. Missed cuts: 7 (2 as amateur). **OPEN:** Played: 36. Wins: 3 (1966-70-78). 2nd: 7 (1964-67-68-72-76-77-79). Top 10s: 18. Missed cuts: 15. **US PGA:** Played: 36. Wins: 5 (1963-71-73-75-80). 2nd: 4 (1964-65-74-83). Top 10s: 15. Missed cuts: 9.

FORM VERDICT
Norski Lad struggled to land the odds here last time and while he may be better over this longer trip it can pay to pass him over in favour of **TOTEM DANCER**, who has been running creditably off higher furl marks recently and could be good enough to defy top weight in this company

stand, 25-1 Le Tache (5th), 25-1 Season of Hope.
12 ran, 4 1/4, 3 2/5, str.-hd. (Winner chestnut filly by Up And At 'em out of Fandango, trained by M. Johnson at Middleham for F. Fabronius). Total: £400; £260, £280, £260. DF: £350.50. CSF: £53.36. Trip: £129.90 NR.

Leaders in our field since 1825



1930 - Advances in materials and regularity in the construction of the ball meant that people could rely on consistent performance whatever the conditions. Now, who does that remind you of?

**Sponsors of the Loch Lomond
golf tournament
8-11 July 1998**

NatWest Trophy second round: Essex's crown slips while Lancashire win Roses match and Scotland's run ends

Connor's wiles humble holders

BY JOHN COLLIS
at SouthamptonEssex 129
Hampshire 132-7
Hampshire win by three wickets

IN SUCH an unreliable summer as this an old cardigan can often be useful, and Hampshire will be grateful that they took 37-year-old Cardigan Connor to this match, just in case. The captain, Robin Smith, had been sidelined on Sunday when Gloucestershire's Mike Smith had re-broken his right index finger, but the spinning finger of his deputy, Shaun Udall, did the trick winning the toss on a muggy, green-wicket morning.

Essex arrived at Southampton as holders of the NatWest Trophy, but within five balls the veteran Anglian quick bowler had loosened their grip. The day's first delivery cartwheelled Paul Prichard's off-stump, Nasser Hussain dropped the third to short leg, and Stuart Law snicked the fifth. In his cricketing dotage Connor - who took his thousandth wicket in all competitions for Hampshire, on Sunday - is a one-day specialist and opening overs do not come much more special than this.

But Hampshire would not have been complacent at this point. In the previous round, against Dorset, they had lost their first three wickets for no runs, whereas at least Law had clipped a leg-side at two for Essex. Enter Nixon McLean, the Test

bowler from St Vincent. His speed snaffled Ronnie Irani and Paul Grayson in the slips, Connor returned to take Stephen Peters - who tried to leave a rising ball but flat-batted it onto his stumps - and after 50 minutes Essex were 32 for 6.

The eccentric early movement faded while Danny Law and Robert Rollins steered Essex past the worst total in this competition by a first-class county (41 by Middlesex, ironically against Essex). But if the greatest sin in one-day cricket is not to bat out your allotted time, however unproductively, then Essex were heading for eternal hell-fire when they capitulated in 41.4 overs.

Their minds must have been once more at Lord's, where on Saturday they will take on Leicestershire in the Benson and Hedges final. This was no rehearsal for the big day. Cricket, of course, is a somewhat complex and unpredictable activity and Hampshire managed to make dreadfully heavy weather - now under a clear blue sky - of achieving a modest target, Irani, an England discard enjoying a rich season was the bowler above all who made a game of it, after Hampshire's opener Jason Loney had made a blistering start, pummeling five boundaries off Ashley Cowan's first two overs.

But in the end the visitors had little hope of defending two-plus an over, though Hampshire took the same number of balls to overhaul them. McLean punched Cowan for a winning boundary, and Connor was a hugely popular man of the match.



Darren Gough, the Yorkshire and England bowler, sweeps the ball for two runs during Lancashire's victory at Old Trafford yesterday

Allsport

Yorkshire stifled by Austin

BY DAVE HADFIELD
at Old TraffordYorkshire 178-9
Lancashire 179-7
Lancashire win by three wickets

THEY MIGHT not like to be termed one-day specialists, but two of Lancashire's masters of the limited-over format steered them to a stuttering victory over the old enemy.

Ian Austin's bowling was miserly even by his own standards. His 12 overs went for just one run apiece, with his first spell of three runs from seven strangling the Yorkshire

innings in its infancy. Austin also took the wickets of Bradley Parker and Gavin Hamilton and, with Wasim Akram and Peter Martin also bowling well, the visitor's total looked destined to be even less challenging than their eventual 178.

Yorkshire owed their revival to Hamilton and Darren Gough, who took them close to respectability before Austin bowled Hamilton. Gough, after his supporting role in the heroics of the third Test here, was low for a top-scoring 42 to Martin, who then removed Richard Steamp with his next ball.

If the target was modest, then

Lancashire did their best early in their innings to render it more formidable. Michael Atherton was out to Chris Silverwood for a duck and the dangerous Andrew Flintoff, having announced his threat with three well-struck boundaries, fell to Gough.

When John Crawley prodded Silverwood into Darren Lehmann's hands, the contest was showing distinct signs of turning Yorkshire's way. That wicket brought together Neil Fairbrother and Graham Lloyd, the two putting on 100 before Lloyd got an edge to Gough. Then Mike Watkinson went without scoring. Fairbrother had by now become

the only man to reach 50 in the game, and when Wasim's failure made it three wickets in eight balls, the burden fell squarely on him.

Fairbrother survived a difficult chance to Richard Blakey off the bowling of Silverwood, as batting became harder in the gathering gloom, and there was still seven needed when Gough took his fourth wicket by bowling Warren Hegg.

The two experts in the nuances of the one-day game were appropriately together at the end. Fairbrother and Austin guiding Lancashire home with three overs to spare.

Kent feel force of Lara revival

BRIAN LARA found his form with a vengeance yesterday. He compiled a masterful 133 on a difficult batting surface at Edgbaston to lead Warwickshire to a 187-run victory over Kent in the second round of the NatWest Trophy.

Lara had not enjoyed the best of times since returning to the county for a second season. Short of runs this summer, the West Indies captain survived a shaky start yesterday to score his maiden NatWest century on a slow wicket of uneven bounce. His 133 came off 158 balls with 16 fours and a six and helped Warwickshire to reach a formidable 303 for 6 after Kent's captain, Trevor Ward, had put them in.

Kent's slim hopes were then reduced still further when Graeme Welch took a competition best of 4 for 31. They slipped to 136 all out in 42.1 overs, to record their worst NatWest defeat.

Vince Wells and Aftab Habib put together a fifth-wicket partnership of 132 in 32 overs to guide Leicestershire to a five-wicket victory over Glamorgan in Cardiff. After bowling out Glamorgan for 188, Leicestershire were wobbling at 42 for 4, with Steve Watkins taking three wickets in a magnificent opening spell. Although Habib went for 67, Leicestershire won with 4.4 overs to spare.

Surrey also needed to be rescued after slumping to 20 for 4 at Bristol, but Alec Stewart, with 88, and Adam Hoolioke, with 88, put on 156 to help Surrey to 215. Gloucestershire were always off the pace in their reply and were bowled out for 163.

At Trent Bridge, Nottinghamshire scored a thrilling victory over Somerset. Chasing 259, they edged home by one wicket with three balls to spare.

Dutch sees off Durham Dean makes reality bite

BY HENRY BLOFELD
at SouthgateDurham 240-8
Middlesex 244-8
Middlesex win by two wickets

DAVID BOON must have felt like an England captain as he watched Durham's bowlers cave in to the pressure at Southgate and allow Middlesex to score 244 for 8 and win by two wickets with an over to spare after an one-stage being reduced to 129 for 7. Richard Johnson, with 45 not out in 27 balls, and Keith Dutch, 49 not out in 53 balls, put on the final 66 in seven frenzied overs at the end.

The slow pitch had frustrated the earlier Middlesex batsmen and only Justin Langer, with 47 in 100 balls, had made any impression against good, tight seam bowling. When Jason Fooley was seventh out it looked all over for Middlesex as Alastair Fraser joined Dutch.

The final assault began in the 47th over when they took 10 off Martin Saggars. They followed that by taking 11 off Ben Phillips in the 48th, including a straight-driven six by Fraser. Seventy-three were needed from the last 10 overs and with so many wickets having fallen it was still an improbable ask. But nine came off the first of these, bowled by John Wood, before Fraser was yorked in the next over by Neil Killeen.

Melvyn Betts found the pressure all too much. He gave away 11 in one over, including a beautiful cover drive by Dutch as the Middlesex batsman began to warm to his task. Killeen found the going equally tough, conceding 11 in his next over with Johnson playing a glorious lofted straight drive for four. Thirty-nine were needed from the last six overs and Durham's heads were beginning to flop to their chests.

Dutch glanced Wood for four before Johnson launched the final

magnificent assault, hitting Wood for two fours in one over with a pick up and a cover drive and then, when nine were needed from the last two overs, he pulled Saggars for four, straight drove him for a second boundary and scored the winning runs with an inside edge to the fine leg boundary. It was magnificent stuff but it left Durham on their knees, their hands clasped to their heads in disbelief. But they have only themselves to blame.

After being put in, Durham never really got on top of the Middlesex bowling on this slow, flat pitch. Nick Speak defended bravely for 145 balls for a stout 73. Boon and Paul Collings made useful contributions and Martin Speight had a profitable slog at Dutch at the end which, at the time, looked as if it might be significant. A total of 240 should have been enough for Durham, but they had not counted on a late assault from the Middlesex batsmen and some pretty ordinary bowling.

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN
in EdinburghScotland 113
Derbyshire 114-3
Derbyshire win by seven wickets

THE BURSTING of the bubble, when it came, was as savage as it was sudden.

Scotland's flirtation with NatWest Trophy success was rudely ended in the opening five overs in which not just the heart, but the very soul of their batting was ripped out by man of the match Kevin Dean. The left-arm swing bowler's devastating spell of three wickets in 10 balls, without conceding a run, helped reduce Scotland to a pitiful total of three runs for four wickets. They looked even more sick at 19 for 6 and the fact that they made any kind of recovery was down solely to some excellent grafting by Ian Stanger.

But he laboured pretty much alone and in vain. The romance of

their first-round victory over Worcestershire was consigned to history; their follow-up success against Bangladesh in a one-day international last weekend had perhaps flattered to deceive. Reality settled over Grange Cricket Ground as darkly as the storm clouds that drove endlessly over Raeburn Place.

Stanger was last out after a stubborn 124-ball innings that at least underlined that this Scotland side has a deal of character, but the damage done by Dean was too much for any side to bear. He was greatly helped by a self-destructive urge on the part of some of Scotland's batsmen.

If Derbyshire did not have things quite their own way when it was their turn to bat, it was perhaps because, having encountered the Scotland manager Jim Love's brave band of amateurs in the Benson and Hedges Cup in May - and made heavy weather of that - they laced their own innings with a liberal dose of caution. Even so, the Scots managed a

shock in the first over. Derbyshire's Australian opener Michael Slater being bowled after deciding to leave a delivery from Asim Butt, the subsequent clatter of falling timber instantly punishing him for his misjudgment.

It was understandable then that Kim Barnett and the Derbyshire debutant, Robin Weston, proceeded with prudence. Just as they began to put on a spurt, the Scots struck again. Barnett was a run short of his half-century when he was bowled by Keith Sheridan. Matthew Cassar hustled his way to 11 before falling to Stanger, but that was it as far as Scotland's ration of joy went.

Not even the weather was on their side. The two brief interruptions for rain merely prolonged the agony. Weston, whose brother Philip had tasted humiliation on this same ground just two weeks ago in Worcestershire's defeat, avoided an unwelcome family double by hitting the winning runs with 20 overs to spare.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

NatWest Trophy - 2nd Round

Glamorgan v Leicestershire

CARDIFF: Glamorgan 188-9 (40 overs); Leicestershire 188-9 (40 overs)

Leicestershire: 1-10, 2-12, 3-12, 4-20, 5-176, 6-165, 7-190, 8-202, 9-215

Bowling: A M Smith 12-4-6-4, C A Walsh 11-1-2-25-1, J Lewis 6-0-4-1, M W Atkinson 12-1-35-1, M C Ball 12-1-46-1, T H C Hancock 4-0-17-0

Leicestershire: 1-10, 2-12, 3-12, 4-20, 5-176, 6-165, 7-190, 8-202, 9-215

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Southampton v Essex

SOUTHAMPTON: Hampshire beat Essex by 3 wickets

Essex: 1-10, 2-12, 3-12, 4-20, 5-176, 6-165, 7-190, 8-202, 9-215

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Essex: 1-10, 2-12, 3-12, 4-20, 5-176, 6-165, 7-190, 8-202, 9-2

Liverpool pledge to retain Owen

BY DAVID ANDERSON

LIVERPOOL ARE prepared to meet Michael Owen's future contract demands to keep him at Anfield. Owen has become one of the hottest properties in the game following his outstanding displays for England at the World Cup.

The 18-year-old signed a long-term £10,000-a-week contract last year and the Liverpool chief executive, Rick Parry, says the club is optimistic that it will always be able to meet his financial demands. "He's always been a very special talent," Parry said yesterday. "It's going to be a case of keeping it all in balance and making sure that Michael remains very much part of the team and family. We hope we will always be in a position to match Michael's aspirations financially. We fervently hope that over the next decade or so Michael will achieve everything he wants to in terms of trophies and medals here."

Liverpool could heighten Owen's commitment to the Anfield cause by offering him an improved contract, but the club claim there is nothing on the table at the moment.

Owen's name will be top of most leading European sides' shopping lists. Juventus claimed last week that they had tried to buy him, but Parry revealed no club had made an offer for him. "There has been a lot of talk in the media and a lot of speculation, but the path to our door is untrodden," he said.

Parry has no doubts that Owen will be able to handle additional pressure because of his family background. Owen still lives at the family home in Hawarden, North Wales. Parry said: "His father is an ex-professional and he has a very stable background. If there's such a thing as an ideal background, then he has got it."

On the blue side of Merseyside, Peter Johnson, the Everton chairman, yesterday launched a fierce attack on Howard Kendall, who left Goodison last month. He accused Kendall of taking the Merseyside club backwards in his third spell in charge, when the Blues survived relegation by goal difference on the final day of the campaign.

Johnson said: "As everyone knows, we'd struggled the season before, but we had had a good start. But I don't think there was a memorable event throughout the whole season.

apart from playing Liverpool at Goodison. It was a terrible indictment of the whole club that we went backwards. As we got close to the end of the season, Howard and I discussed the situation and it was then arranged that, at some stage during the summer, we would be making a change. So we sat down and we parted."

Johnson bore the brunt of Everton supporters' frustrations throughout the season, culminating in angry scenes outside Goodison Park when Kendall left the club. But the former Tranmere chairman refuses to give up on making the Blues great again. "I enjoy the job I have here at Everton," Johnson said. "Of course I'd enjoy it a lot more if we were successful and that is my ambition - to make it successful."

"As far as the criticism goes, I can understand some of the fans. They feel frustrated. All I'd ask them to realise is that I feel as frustrated as they do. They feel I've got the ability and the wherewithal to change, but it doesn't change overnight. It's going to be a lot of hard work. I think the appointment of Walter [Smith] and Archie [Knox] as his assistant is a big step in the right direction."

Smith has stated that he plans to introduce new faces at Goodison Park before the season starts at home to Aston Villa on 15 August, but he will be allowing the current squad adequate time to prove themselves.

"I don't think there's any doubt that if we get the opportunity to add to the squad, we'll be doing that," Smith said. "We can try and do that over the next couple of weeks, but it will be interesting for us to have a look at everyone who is here. Everybody here will be given a good opportunity to prove themselves."

Everton have already been linked with both the Nigerian World Cup player Taribo West and the former Goodison winger Andrei Kanchelskis, who is now with Fiorentina, but Smith has denied that names are in the frame. "It's not at that stage," Smith said. "Speculation surrounds clubs when managers come in and there will obviously be a turnover of staff."

"How many players we bring in and how many players leave will depend exactly on what we see with our squad of players. There are one or two players in Scotland you'd like to get your hands on, but it is early days to be talking about that."



Liverpool are determined to keep one of the World Cup's brightest stars, Michael Owen, at Anfield

Empics

Robson plans double signing

BY ALAN NIXON

BRYAN ROBSON, the Middlesbrough manager, wants to sign Teddy Sheringham in his second raid on his old club, Manchester United.

Robson hopes to be successful in his bid for Sheringham after persuading Alex Ferguson to part with the central defender Gary Pallister. The move for Sheringham depends on financial terms.

United want their money back on Sheringham - they paid Tottenham £3.5m for him a year ago - so they can attract the Argentinian Ariel Ortega, but Robson is offering less.

Sheringham was left out of the side at the end of last season and Ferguson is planning to bring in a new face to his attack before the campaign kicks off.

Robson is not worried about the Sheringham's age, 32, and hopes the striker will join fellow England players Paul Gascoigne and Paul Merson on Teesside.

Pallister completed his £2.5m move back to Middlesbrough from Manchester United yesterday. The 33-year-old former England centre-back has agreed a three-year contract with Boro nine years after he left Teesside in a then British record £2.3m move to Old Trafford.

Robson has been a huge admirer of Pallister since they played together for Manchester United and England, and he was delighted to have finally got his man.

Robson claimed Pallister would strengthen his defence following the departure of Derek Whyte for Aberdeen last season and the retirement of Nigel Pearson.

"Pally has great experience and has been a winner at Manchester United and I hope that he will bring some of that to Middlesbrough," he said.

"With Derek Whyte leaving the club last season and Nigel Pearson retiring, we needed someone to provide competition for the centre-back places with Gianluca Festa and Steve Vickers.

"I'm sure Pally will prove to be a great signing."

Pallister will be unveiled at a press conference today at the Riverside Stadium along with another new signing, Dean Gordon from Crystal Palace.

Pallister, who won every domestic honour with United, became surplus to requirements at Old Trafford following the arrival of Jaap Stam, the Dutch World Cup centre-back, from PSV Eindhoven for a record £10.5m.

Pallister first joined Boro in 1984 from the Northern League club Billingham Town and he helped the club into the top flight before he left in 1989.

The deal represents good business for Manchester United, who have made a £200,000 profit on the player, despite having him for the best part of his career.

Oscar says Newcastle want him Celtic's search nears end

THE BARCELONA striker Oscar Garcia claimed yesterday that Newcastle United had made a bid of £4m for him.

Oscar, as he is usually known at the Catalan club, was a member of Spain's 1996 Olympic squad and scored twice during the preliminary round matches in Atlanta, but has yet to make the transition to Spain's senior team.

"It is flattering that Newcastle want to sign me, but they will have to pay my buy-out clause of 1,000 million pesetas (£4m) because I am still under contract to Barcelona," Oscar said. However, he added that Newcastle had indicated they were prepared to meet his asking price.

Oscar was a regular member of Juan Cruyff's first team during the last season of the Dutchman's coaching reign at Barcelona but in

the last two seasons, under Bobby Robson and then Louis van Gaal, he has been reduced to a back-up role. Last season, he played in only 16 league matches and scored a solitary goal. In May, he was one of the players whom Van Gaal declared he wanted to sell.

Blackburn are set to sell their striker James Beattie to Southampton for around £1m. It will be the third major deal between the two Premiership clubs this summer, with Beattie following in the footsteps of the former England winger Stuart Ripley, who joined Saints earlier this week. Rovers spent £7.25m in recruiting their record signing, Kevin Davies, from The Dell last month.

The Blackburn manager, Roy Hodgson, claims he is still looking for players despite spending nearly £12m

on new talent this summer. As well as signing Davies he spent £3m on Sebastian Perez and £1m on James Corbett, while he also signed Darren Peacock on a free transfer from Newcastle under the Bosman ruling.

Hodgson says he is pleased with his four new recruits, but added he has not put the cheque book away just yet. "We have signed four very, very good players as well as Callum Davidson, whom I regard as a new player basically because he hardly played a match for us last season," he said.

"I feel the squad we have is quite capable of good things next season and while there's a limit to the number of players you can bring in, I'm still keeping an eye out for a good deal."

Aston Villa have sold the Portuguese international defender

Fernando Nelson to Porto for £1.1m. The 26-year-old right-back moved to Villa from Sporting Lisbon for £1.7m two years ago.

Villa have also insisted that Dwight Yorke will not be sold to Manchester United. Last season the Villa manager, John Gregory, said the Trinidad and Tobago international would cost £15m.

Villa's secretary, Steve Stride, yesterday described the latest rumours linking Yorke with a move to Old Trafford as "scurrilous".

Terry Venables has appointed Terry Fenwick and Ted Buxton to his coaching staff at Crystal Palace. Fenwick, the former England international, becomes first team coach after leaving Portsmouth, where he was manager alongside Venables. Buxton becomes personal assistant to the new Palace manager.

CELTIC BEGIN their two-match tour of the Netherlands today without a full-time manager. Fifty-eight days after Wim Jansen walked out of Parkhead, Eric Black will take charge of the Scottish champions when they take on the amateurs of FC Hollandia in the small town of Hoorn.

Only two weeks before Celtic begin their Champions' League campaign against St Patrick's Athletic from the Republic of Ireland, the club are in the same situation they found themselves just 12 months ago when Tommy Burns was dismissed as manager.

Jack Brown, the club's general manager, has indicated they have found a replacement for Jansen, who led Celtic to their first championship for 10 years only to walk out 48 hours later. The appointment is expected

to be made public soon, possibly after the World Cup finishes on Sunday.

Gerard Houllier, the former France manager and now the French federation's technical director, is widely believed to be the man at the top of Celtic's list.

Houllier has been approached by a number of clubs and publicly stated at the weekend he felt closest to Celtic, but he is refusing to elaborate while the World Cup finals are still in progress.

The Rangers coach, Dick Advocaat, needs to keep looking for a top-class goalkeeper now that Stefan Klos is staying at Borussia Dortmund. With Andy Goram released from Ibrox, the Finn Antti Niemi is currently the number one at the club, but he remains untested.

Advocaat knew there was a major

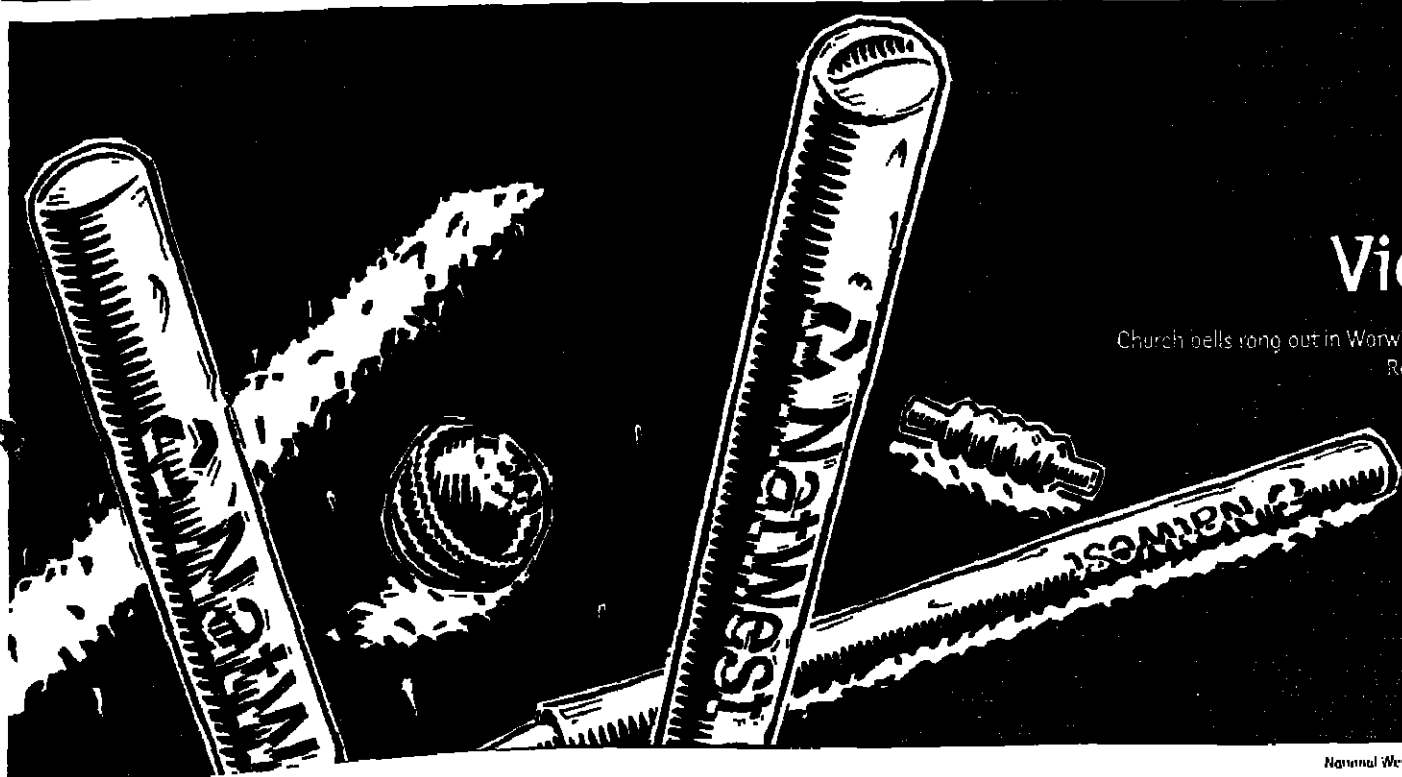
doubt about Klos's arrival because of his legal wrangle. Klos is believed to have given up his legal fight because of the huge costs involved.

His deal with Dortmund expired at the end of June but the club used a clause in his contract to extend it for another season.

A court last month ruled Klos was not free to join Rangers, overturning an earlier ruling in his favour.

Even if Klos changes his mind and wins a final appeal to the Federal Labour Court, the legal process is likely to take many months.

It is understood Advocaat has two players at the top of his list, fellow Dutchman Ruud Hesp and Auxerre's Lionel Charbonnier. Hesp is currently the back-up goalkeeper at Barcelona and he is likely to be more available than Charbonnier, who is in France's World Cup squad.



Victory in Warwickshire.

Church bells rang out in Warwickshire yesterday, signalling victory over Kent in the Second Round of the NatWest Trophy. Remember their final defeat against Essex last year. So did they.

NatWest
More than just a bank

Football the loser as Dutch fall



RAY
WILKINS

ALTHOUGH BRAZIL were my original tip to win the World Cup and although I think they will emerge victorious on Sunday, I have to say that the tournament lost its best footballing side in the Stade Velodrome on Tuesday night. The Netherlands would have been worthy winners of France 98.

Their control of the ball and the way they retained possession was an example to all and helped take the game away from the Brazilians. The South Americans are not used to having the minority share of the ball and in the first half they didn't know how to cope with it. The result was that when they did gain possession they gave it away cheaply; something you don't often see from a Brazilian side.

I admired the football that the Dutch produced in the first half against Argentina and they did the same again on Tuesday. It is a shame they couldn't go on to win the game. A nation that consistently throws up so many gifted players, players with sound temperaments, as well as outstanding skill, deserves to be crowned world champions. The big thing in their favour is that they are a generally young side and the nucleus will still be around in four years' time.

Brazil looked nervy and ruffled in the first half but grew stronger the longer the game went on and they probably had the better chances in the second half to make the game safe.

I thought the turn that Ronaldo executed on the half-way line to get away from Frank de Boer in the final 30 minutes was sensational. If that moment did not lift everybody out of their seats then nothing will - it encapsulated everything that you expect from Ronaldo and everything that is exciting about forward play at its best - combining pace, power and strength. When he turned De Boer, whom I rate as one of the world's great players, the defender had a look on his face as if to say "someone please help". Jaap Stam did enough to delay Ronaldo and that gave De Boer the chance to make his saving tackle.

Ronaldo has attracted his critics in this competition but some of the things he has done have been sublime. We have to remember he is only 21 and has been up against some top-class defenders. Both Stam and De Boer did well against him in Marseille but they learned the hard way that to neglect him for one moment is to tempt severe punishment.

The Brazilian goal proved that as De Boer stepped up to catch him off-side only for Philip Cocu to play him on. The first touch from Ronaldo had to be good because anything less and he would not have been able to get



Joy is unconfined for Brazil after beating the Netherlands on penalties on Tuesday to reach their second successive World Cup final

Georges Gobet/APF

his shot in so quickly. He made it look simple when it was anything but.

Obviously it didn't help the Dutch cause that they were without Marc Overmars, but the Brazilians were more affected by the loss of Cafu. Ze Carlos was a problem for them defensively and going forward they missed the drive that Cafu gives them beyond the half-way line. Through the pace and crossing ability of Boudewijn Zenden the Dutch found joy down Ze Carlos' flank in the first-half and they might well have made more of it later on.

Patrick Kluyvert scored an exceptional goal to bring the Dutch back and he perhaps should have done better with two headers before that. His movement in the penalty area and his use of the ball was exceptional and he put Dennis Bergkamp in the shade. It was unfortunate for the Arsenal man. Brazil were clearly wary of his threat and marked him closely, but it never surprises me in a game of that importance to see players of his calibre nullified. The other team set their stall out to keep them quiet.

Brazil should now go on to take the trophy because you get the feeling that they can outscore anybody at anytime. It's not just about Ronaldo, they can also rely on Rivaldo to score and the likes of Denilson and I've a hunch Brazil will start with him on Sunday instead of Bebeto.

However their defensive weaknesses place them at a level below the great Brazilian teams of the past. Those sides would score freely but they could defend properly as well. On Tuesday Brazil allowed Kluyvert and Co too many chances and it

might have brought their World Cup to a halt.

It was just as well that Taffarel was on his game and he came good in the penalty shoot-out, going the right way every time and making two crucial saves. The technique of the Brazilian penalties impressed me and it is interesting that their coach, Mario Zagallo, has them taking three penalties apiece after each training session. They all pulled the ball (for right-footed players that means placing it to the goalkeeper's right) rather than pushing

it and that way they can generate more power.

It remains the most upsetting way to go out of the competition, the worst of all hurdles at which to stumble because if you lose in the final at least you have taken part in the world's most important game. We all dream about playing in a World Cup final but when you saw the strain on the faces of the Dutch players as they stepped up to take their turn from 12 yards would we really have wanted to swap places with them?



DIARY

IT IS a problem we feared was afflicting all of us sad, obsessive World Cup-watchers and, sadly, confirmation has now arrived from Israel: We are all likely to have put on a few pounds over the past month. A survey conducted by an Israeli diet food company discovered that 75 per cent of Israeli men have gained between 3.3lb and 5.5lb watching France 98 through an excessive intake of junk food and long sessions on the couch.

One fan will not be distressed to have gathered a few extra pounds at the end of the tournament. Adrian Fitzpatrick, a flower importer from Birmingham, will earn £544,500 from the bookmakers William Hill if Brazil triumph in Sunday's final. The 41-year-old father of four wagered £18,000 at odds of 30-1 last June that Arsenal would win the Premiership and Brazil the World Cup. Mr Fitzpatrick, it has been revealed, is no stranger to big winnings, having collected £395,000 when Brazil won the World Cup in 1994.

It was not just their World Cup hopes that went down the pan on Tuesday night... the water system in the Netherlands was put under the severest strain because 11 million Dutch waited until the breaks in the semi-final to use the bathroom. "In the pauses and between the extra-time session and the penalty shoot-out the toilets got massive use," said DHV, an engineering consultant company. Someone even took the trouble to produce a graph showing that 65 per cent more water was used during the interval of the Brazil game compared with the corresponding period of the Argentina match.

A word of warning to Ronaldo, Rivaldo and all those other would-be shirt-swappers at the end of Sunday's final. When England's Roger Hunt changed jerseys with the West German defender Wolfgang Weber at the end of the 1966 World Cup final he presumably cannot have given thought to the possibility that the swap-shop would cost him £25,000 in later life. Today at Sotherby's the red No 8 shirt goes under the hammer and is expected to realise £20,000. Hunt is putting Weber's shirt up at the same time but it is only expected to fetch £15,000.

Take that. In a piece of impeccable timing the largest Dutch bank, ABN Amro, announced yesterday that it is taking over the Brazilian bank Banco Real for \$2.1bn.

Compiled by Trevor Haylett

Fiction mirrors truth in Cantona double-act

WHAT IS the difference between a football match and a film? Answer: you can use your hands in the film. That is a Cantona joke. Not Eric, but his younger brother Joel (aged 30).

Until as recently as 1995 he was playing for Stockport County. Then he started appearing in ads and, a year or two back, in the film *Le Bonheur est dans le pré* with his big brother. Now he has returned to his roots in Marseille to shoot *Les Collègues*, a comedy written and directed by Philippe Dajoux, in which he plays a cunning coach character.

I would hesitate to compare them in footballing terms, but to my eye Joel Cantona is certainly the better-looking brother (Eric, if you're reading this, I'm just kidding) - somewhere between Alain Delon and Jean-Paul Belmondo.



ANDY
MARTIN
AT LARGE IN
FRANCE



This is the plot: a small amateur football club is threatened with closure by the local council, who want to put a swimming pool up on the ground. The only way they can save themselves is by winning *La Mondalette*, a competition in Marseille run in parallel with *Le Mondial* (ie the World Cup), with a prize of 300,000 francs attached.

But they are anything but a great team - with one deaf player

and a drunk Russian goalkeeper - so they have to (a) improve and (b) cheat quite a lot too.

With life as ever imitating art, the film is being shot just down the road from Les Caillols - where the Cantonas were born - on the rough gravel pitch of the *Union sportive cheminots Grande Bastide*, which is indeed threatened with closure. The depressing difference from the plot is that in this case the council

is not only not planning to put a swimming pool in its place, they had already closed the pool too, and the football club was just next on the list. Now it seems likely that the club is going to be saved from closure by appearing in the film as a club that is saved from closure.

Les Collègues is also shrewdly exploiting the opportunities offered by the World Cup in Marseille. The first day of shooting coincided with the Netherlands-Argentina quarter-final, when the filmic team drove around the Vieux Port using the teeming crowds as their teeming crowds, and not having to pay them a penny as extras. Next, they cruised over to the Prado beach with the giant screen and, at half-time, went on stage carrying a cup and persuaded 20,000-odd fans to cheer. I hope I have not given away too much of the ending here.

The Cantonas' dad is acting in the film too, oddly enough playing the part of Cantona's dad. "He's never acted before," Joel said, with *Le Mistral* whipping dust into our eyes. "But in a way he's never stopped acting for the last 50 years. In Marseille, you're always acting. You play pétanque, and it's a performance. Everything is exteriorised here." There is also a strong cinematic tradition in Marseille: Marcel Pagnol filmed here, and Fernandel.

But everything the Cantonas learned, they learned in their quarter of Les Caillols. "Football and acting, these are just different means of expressing yourself," Cantona said. In this film though - as in certain notorious moments in this World Cup - football and acting are not even different means of self-expression but merge into

one. Joel's remarks seemed to clear up some of the mystery about Eric too: for all those who have worried over whether Cantona the elder, in so much of what he says and does, is for real or bluffing, the answer is: he is really bluffing, faking everything with total authenticity.

The other thing that explained quite a lot about Eric was the book of his I picked up in a local second-hand store, *Un rêve modeste et fou*, which reveals that he used to have a poster of Bruce Lee on his wall as a kid.

There was a part in the film that would have fitted me like a glove: a guy with short white hair who takes himself for Ravanelli. Unfortunately, another guy with short white hair had already filled it in the shape of Cyril Lecomte. He told me that the film is really all about

how hopeless cases are saved by football. The only difference from real life that I can see is that at the end a complete idiot gets to take a penalty and, in this case, scores.

I hope that the *Grande Bastide* club is saved in reality. The great French player, Jean Tigana, now coach at Monaco, learned his art here and Olympique Marseille drop by every season to seduce away their star players. Their 73-year-old president, M. Riccérdo, told me: "The World Cup has really helped us. It has concentrated minds on how important football is to us."

I mentioned to the taxi-driver who drove me back to town the film's story of rigged games. "Is Tapie [the disgraced former president of Olympique Marseille] in it?" he said. "He'd be perfect for it. He made us dream and he made us cry. He is a true comedian."

Americans want Kendall

HOWARD KENDALL is being offered a quick return to management as the coach of the United States national side in succession to Steve Sampson, writes Alan Nixon.

The United States Soccer Federation is making an approach for Kendall, dismissed by Everton last month, and he is likely to agree to the new challenge.

Kendall is still highly rated abroad, where his previous record at Everton is remembered along with his CV which includes spells in Spain and Greece.

The chance of a new start across the Atlantic will appeal to Kendall, whose chances of a top job in

England are limited after a bad season at Everton.

Kendall's signings and player relations were criticised and yesterday Everton's chairman, Peter Johnson, criticised him for "putting the club back".

However Kendall has the type of image and respect that the Americans are looking for after a poor World Cup, during which Sampson had a succession of disagreements over tactics and selection with several senior players, including Alexi Lalas and Tab Ramos. The Americans went out at the first stage, scoring only one goal and failing to gain a point.

THE GLOBAL GAME

THE WORLD CUP AROUND THE WORLD

Stephen Brunt, football writer with the *Globe and Mail*, Canada, gives his view on Brazil's progress to the final

"They have been good enough to win on their worst night, to win when they did not play like a team, when their own confidence, their own arrogance, put them in peril again and again. They have been good enough to lose a game when it didn't matter, and still go marching on.

They are the Brazilians, and the Brazilians are like no one else, because they are better, because they are

blessed, because the game is theirs. And now, an unprecedented fifth World Cup is within their reach after a desperately close, wonderfully exciting match that Brazil eventually won on penalty kicks after the score was tied at 1-1 following extra time.

Until then, the Netherlands team, backed by a hooting, singing orange army that split the Stade Velodrome evenly with Brazil's own canary legions, had seemed set to defy their disappointing World Cup past, which includes losing the final in 1974 and 1978.

Now France or Croatia will try and derail destiny, try to beat the odds of history - only once have Brazil lost a final, in 1950 at home to Uruguay, the first time they had been that far.

Four other teams triumphed, three of them triumphs of athleticism and style, and one, four years ago, that were considerably more workmanlike. This Brazil team, with one game to play, are still difficult to categorize, their best moments so wonderful, their worst so pedestrian.

But, like the others, they seem to hold enough cards."

QUOTES OF THE DAY

If we win I don't expect them to build a statue for me. But, if we lose, they'll kill me. Dunga, the Brazilian captain, accepts his role in their campaign.

Now isn't the time to celebrate. Mario Zagallo, the Brazilian coach, looks forward to Sunday.

We really could have beaten this Brazilian side. I believe they were afraid of us. Philip Cocu, one of two Dutch players to miss in the penalty shoot-out, wonders what might have been. It's much easier on the pitch than it is on the sidelines. Outside you suffer a lot. I can't wait to get back. Cafu, Brazil's right-back, suffers on the bench after being suspended for the semi-final.

Ronatto's skill baffles Brian de Bore

IT'S TAKEN a long time to happen, but Bob Wilson has finally picked up a tip from the BBC's Des Lynam. No, he's not grown a moustache, or developed a personality or even cut down on his verbiage. On Tuesday he simply borrowed Des' infamous technique of emotionally black-mailing the viewers as he signed off. Remember how Des swung England's Euro 96 semi-final the BBC's way in the programme beforehand by eyeing the camera directly and saying: "You will be here, won't you?" Well, ITV and BBC go head-to-head for the first time in this tournament for the final on Sunday, and so every trick will be used to fight for an audience. Wilson's closing gambit was to remind us that commentator Brian Moore is retiring after Sunday, and he exhorted us



STAN HEY
VIEW FROM THE ARMCHAIR

"not to miss Brian's special day". All together now - aah!

The only problem with this invitation is that Brian has performed so wretchedly during this World Cup that he must have all but drained the viewers' reservoir of goodwill towards him. Leaving aside his dreadful gaff before David Baty's penalty, he has consistently misidentified players, thereby

failing in the first duty of any commentator, and has also prejudged games so often in the pursuit of hype, that he really doesn't deserve a further hearing.

"This is the real final!" Moore declared before the Brazil-Netherlands game, setting up expectations that couldn't be fulfilled. "It does look a game of goals," he asserted early in a barren first half, defying the history and tactical logic of all recent World Cup semi-finals. Not since France-West Germany in 1982 have we had a semi-final tie with a glut of goals. They are, by tradition, tense, nervous and arid affairs and it was almost wilfully misleading of Moore to suggest that this game would be otherwise. It took Ruud Gullit, still a virgin in ITV's ways, to bring some perspective by pointing

out that there was "a lot of bad passing and not much excitement".

Moore had indicated early on that this wasn't to be one of his better nights by suddenly announcing that "unless I'm going crackers, I think Denilson's on". But the £20m Brazilian was emphatically still on the bench. His other eccentric contributions included confusing Jaap Stam for Pierre van Hooijdonk (different positions, radically different skin colours, Brian), creating a third de Boer brother, "Robert", and as the Dutch defence closed on Ronaldo describing the Brazilian as being "surrounded by a swarm of yellow shirts". He was also prone to just uttering a short "oh", in the manner of the two perverted men's tailors in *The Fast Show*.

However, Moore was at least for-

tunate in having Ron Atkinson as his guide dog on the night, because Big Ron played a blinder. Unemployed manager he may be, but he can still bring a coach's insight to the game and then express it in succinct vernacular terms that the public can understand.

While Moore was waffling about Ze Carlos, the novice Brazilian right-back, waking his team-mates by impersonating a cockerel, Ron was sizing up the new man like a fox stalking a hen. Sure enough, all the Netherlands' early enterprise came down their left side. Even as the first half drew a blank, Ron was pointing out "a lot of cat and mouse stuff going on all over the field", which Brian de Bore translated more prosaically as "a chess match".

At the end of the interval, Glenn

Hoddle, guesting to no great effect, took a leaf out of Brian's book and tipped the Netherlands to win, the immediate effect being a Brazilian goal by Ronaldo.

Meanwhile Ronatto also continued to score, explaining how Brazil had shut down the Dutch left side and, a touch belatedly perhaps, realising that "I've never seen Bergkamp have a more insignificant game".

As extra time loomed, thanks to Patrick Kluivert's wonderful equaliser, Brian was still doing his medicine-man number, promising us "a wonderful jamboree", while Ron gave a brilliant summary of this most pragmatic of Brazilian teams. "Mentally, they play for 1-0," he said.

Mentally, Moore plays for a five-all draw, but the world of modern

football is beyond his Corinthian compass now. There are too many dense strategies, too much pace and too much calculating cynicism on the pitch for him to keep up with. I shall listen to him on Sunday night, more for nostalgia's sake than for enlightenment about the game, and I just hope he doesn't embarrass himself too much. Hopefully, Big Ron will be allowed to look after him.

Meanwhile, the BBC used the highlights of the Brazil-Netherlands match to give the rejected Barry Davies a run-out. Rather than sulking about missing the final, Davies appeared to be enjoying himself by going completely native, coming up with the multi-syllabic "Ronaldooooohhh!" to salute Brazil's goal. May be Brian should try the same trick for his last hurrah?

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO FRANCE 98

TUESDAY'S LATE MATCH

Netherlands 1 Brazil 1
Aet, score at 90 min: 1-1. Brazil win 4-2 on penalties

SEMI-FINAL: STADE VELODROME, MARSEILLES. ATT: 54,000

Goal: Kluivert 87
Yellow cards: 4 (Reiziger, Davids, Van Hooijdonk, Seedorf)
Red cards: 0
Corners: 5
Offsides: 5
Free-kicks (against): 21
Coach: Guus Hiddink

Goal: Ronaldo 46
Yellow cards: 2 (Ze Carlos, Cesar Sampaio)
Red cards: 0
Corners: 5
Offsides: 5
Free-kicks (against): 9
Coach: Mario Zagallo

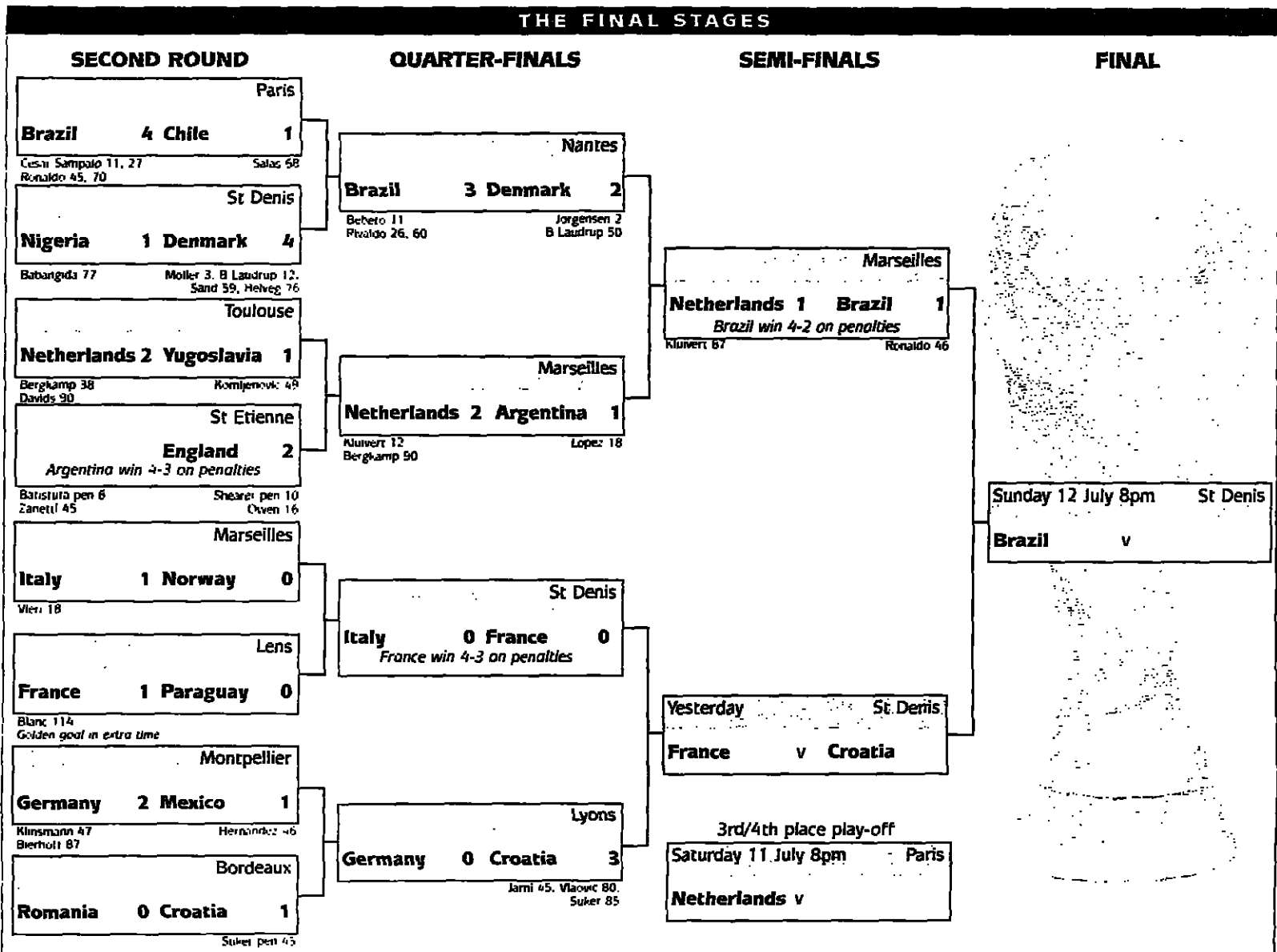
Running commentary

2 min: Van der Sar out to meet Ronaldo. Bergkamp floats ball just over crossbar.
15 min: Stam blocks Ronaldo's shot close in.
28 min: Kluivert heads close from Zenden's outstandingly accurate centre.
30 min: Yellow card Ze Carlos (tackle from behind on Zenden).
34 min: Zenden again centres low. Frank de Boer unable to get full contact at far post.
40 min: Brazil alert against enterprising attacking by Zenden and Kluivert. Carlos importantly chests back to keeper.
44 min: Yellow card Cesar Sampaio (foul).
46 min: Long ball from Rivaldo finds Ronaldo who for first time has space in middle. Calmly places shot in.
47 min: Yellow card Reiziger (foul).
52 min: Taffarel saves breathtakingly off line as Dutch press from corner.
59 min: Yellow card Davids (foul).
61 min: Van der Sar comes out to stop Ronaldo scoring again.
66 min: Bergkamp plays short pass perfectly for Kluivert. Shot driven hard at Taffarel.
73 min: Rivaldo sends Ronaldo away. Davids athletically catches him in area. Ball skims past post. Brazil claim penalty.
79 min: Kluivert sidefoots over.
87 min: Ronald de Boer centres. Kluivert rises high to head in equaliser.
90 min: Yellow card Van Hooijdonk (diving).
94 min: Ronaldo curls shot. Van der Sar pushes away at full stretch.
96 min: Van Hooijdonk blasts good free-kick. Taffarel holds.
106 min: Ronaldo stopped by Frank de Boer

GOALSCORERS	
FIVE GOALS	Ebbe Sand (Den)
Christian Vieri (It)	Thomas Helweg (Den)
Gabriel Batistuta (Arg)	Christophe Dugarry (Fr)
FOUR GOALS	David Trézeguet (Fr)
Marcelo Salas (Chile)	Blasencio Lizarraga (Fr)
Luis Hernandez (Mex)	Younis Djaballah (Fr)
Davor Suker (Cro)	Ermanol Petric (Fr)
Ronaldo (Bra)	Laurent Blanc (Fr)
THREE GOALS	Benedict McCarthy (S Africa)
Thierry Henry (Fr)	Samir Al-Jaber (S Arabia)
Cesar Sampaio (Bra)	Youssef Al-Thayyan (S Arabia)
Jürgen Klinsmann (Ger)	Raul (Sp)
Oliver Bierhoff (Ger)	Luis Enrique (Sp)
Bebe (Bra)	Mutiu Adegboye (Nigeria)
Dennis Bergkamp (Neth)	Garba Lawal (Nigeria)
Rivaldo (Bra)	Sunday Obiesi (Nigeria)
TWO GOALS	Victor Ikpeba (Nigeria)
Alan Shearer (Eng)	Wilson Oruma (Nigeria)
Michael Owen (Eng)	Tijani Babangida (Nigeria)
Roberto Baggio (It)	Celso Ayala (Para)
Abdelmajid Hadda (Mor)	Miguel Benítez (Para)
Salaheddine Bassir (Mor)	Jose Cardozo (Para)
Shaun Bartlett (SA)	Enli Kostadinov (Bul)
Fernando Hierro (Sp)	Ha Seok-hu (S Kor)
Francisco Morientes (Sp)	Yoo Sang-chul (S Kor)
Kiko (Sp)	Alberto Garcia Aspe (Mex)
Marc Wilmots (Bel)	Casimiro Blanco (Mex)
Philipp Cocu (Neth)	Marc Overmars (Neth)
Nenad de Boer (Neth)	Pierre van Hooijdonk (Neth)
Slobodan Komljenovic (Yug)	Edgar Davids (Neth)
Ricardo Pelaez (Mex)	Luc Nilis (Bel)
Vlora Moldovan (Rom)	Andreas Möller (Ger)
Ariel Ortega (Arg)	Sinisa Mihajlovic (Yug)
Theodore Whitmore (Jam)	Predrag Stojkovic (Yug)
Brian Laudrup (Den)	Dragan Stokic (Yug)
Patrick Kluivert (Neth)	Hamid Basti (Iran)
ONE GOAL	Mehdi Mahdavi (Iran)
John Collins (Sco)	Brian McBride (US)
Craig Burley (Sco)	Paul Scholes (Eng)
Dan Eggen (Nor)	Darren Anderson (Eng)
Harvard Flo (Nor)	David Beckham (Eng)
Tore Andre Flo (Nor)	Adrian Ilie (Rom)
Kjetil Rekdal (Nor)	Dan Petrescu (Rom)
Moussa Ma'az (Mor)	Lekder Preclado (Col)
Luigi Di Biagio (It)	Skander Souayah (Tun)
Robert Wijnenda (Cam)	Mario Stanic (Cro)
Wrick Mboma (Cam)	Robert Prosinecki (Cro)
Anton Polster (Aut)	Robbie Earle (Jam)
Wica Vastic (Aut)	Hector Pineda (Jam)
Andreas Herzog (Aut)	Javier Zanetti (Arg)
Jose Luis Sierra (Chile)	Masashi Nakayama (Japan)
Marc Rieper (Den)	Michael Jorgensen (Den)
Alban Nilsson (Den)	Robert Jarul (Cro)
Michael Laudrup (Den)	Goran Visovic (Cro)
Peter Moller (Den)	Claudio Lopez (Arg)
OWN GOALS	
Tommy Boyd (Sco)	
Youssef Chippo (Mor)	
Pierre Issa (S Africa)	
Sinisa Mihajlovic (Yug)	

STATISTICS	
6	BRAZIL'S VICTORY on Tuesday put them into the World Cup final for the sixth time (1950, 1958, 1962, 1970, 1994, 1998). That equals the record of West Germany (1954, 1966, 1974, 1982, 1986, 1990).
4	THE NUMBER of games in France 98 that have been decided on penalties.
14	THE NUMBER of games decided on penalties in the World Cup finals.
3	THE NUMBER of World Cup penalty shoot-outs Brazil have been involved in. They lost 4-3 to France in the 1986 quarter-final and beat Italy 3-2 in the 1994 final.
6	THE NUMBER of penalty shoot-outs between South American and European teams.
5	THE NUMBER of penalty shoot-outs South American teams have won against European teams.

TEAM OF THE DAY	
THE INVISIBLE XI	A team of players who made the trip to France 98 but failed to make an appearance
Carlos Germano (Brazil)	
Zoran Markic (Croatia)	
Andre Oelzer (Netherlands)	
Andre Cruz (Brazil)	
Martin Keown (England)	
Rio Ferdinand (England)	
Scott Gemmill (Scotland)	
Giovanni Van Bronckhorst (Netherlands)	
Las Ferdinand (England)	
Simon Donnelly (Scotland)	
Arjan Knipfke (Croatia)	



GROUP STAGES																			
Group A								Group E											
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD				
1 Brazil	3	2	0	1	6	3	+3	Brazil 2 Scotland 1 Morocco 2 Norway 2 Scotland 1 Norway 1 Brazil 3 Morocco 0 Scotland 0 Morocco 3 Brazil 1 Norway 2	1 Netherlands	3	1	2	0	7	2	+5	South Korea 1 Mexico 3 Netherlands 0 Belgium 0 Belgium 2 Mexico 2 Netherlands 5 5 Korea 0 Netherlands 2 Mexico 2 Belgium 1 South Korea 1		
2 Norway	3	1	2	0	5	4	+1		2 Mexico	3	1	2	0	7	5	+2			
3 Morocco	3	1	1	1	5	5	0		3 Belgium	3	0	3	0	3	3	0			
4 Scotland	3	0	1	2	2	1	-4		4 S Korea	3	0	1	2	2	9	-7			
Group B								Group F											
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD				
1 Italy	3	2	1	0	7	3	+4	Italy 2 Chile 2 Cameroon 1 Austria 1 Chile 1 Austria 1 Italy 3 Cameroon 1 Italy 2 Austria 1 Chile 1 Cameroon 1	1 Germany	3	2	1	0	6	2	+7	+4	Yugoslavia 1 Iran 0 Germany 2 USA 0	
2 Chile	3	0	3	0	4	4	3	0	2 Yugoslavia	3	2	1	0	4	2	+7	+2	Germany 2 Yugoslavia 2 USA 1 Iran 2 Germany 2 Iran 0 USA 0 Yugoslavia 1	
3 Austria	3	0	2	1	3	4	2	-1		3 Iran	3	1	0	2	2	4	3	-2	
4 Cameroon	3	0	2	1	2	5	2	-3		4 USA	3	0	0	3	1	5	0	-4	
Group C								Group G											
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD				
1 France	3	3	0	0	9	1	+8	S Arabia 0 Denmark 1 France 3 South Africa 0 S Africa 1 Denmark 1 France 4 Saudi Arabia 0 France 2 Denmark 1 S. Africa 2 S Arabia 2	1 Romania	3	2	1	0	4	2	+7	+2	England 2 Tunisia 0 Romania 1 Colombia 0 Colombia 1 Tunisia 0 Romania 2 England 1 Romania 1 Tunisia 1 Colombia 0 England 2	
2 Denmark	3	1	1	1	3	3	4	0		2 England	3	2	0	1	5	2	6	+3	
3 S Africa	3	0	2	1	3	6	2	-3		3 Colombia	3	1	0	2	1	3	3	-2	
4 S Arabia	3	0	1	2	2	7	1	-5		4 Tunisia	3	0	1	2	1	4	1	-3	
Group D								Group H											
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD				
1 Nigeria	3	2	0	1	5	5	6	0	Paraguay 0 Bulgaria 0 Spain 2 Nigeria 3 Nigeria 1 Bulgaria 0 Spain 0 Paraguay 0 Spain 6 Bulgaria 1 Nigeria 1 Paraguay 3	1 Argentina	3	3	0	0	7	0	9	+7	Argentina 1 Japan 0 Jamaica 1 Croatia 3 Japan 0 Croatia 1
2 Paraguay	3	1	2	0	3	1	5	+2		2 Croatia	3	2	0	1	4	2	6	+2	Argentina 5 Jamaica 0 Argentina 1 Jamaica 2 Japan 1 Croatia 2
3 Spain	3	1	1	1	8	4	4	+4		3 Jamaica	3	1	0	2	3	9	3	-6	
4 Bulgaria	3	0	1	2	1	7	1	-6		4 Japan	3	0	0	3	1	4	0	-3	

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SPORT

EUBANK RISES FOR ANOTHER SHOWTIME P24 • THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND MCLAREN P24



Lee Westwood crosses the bridge to the 11th at Loch Lomond yesterday on his way to a first-round 69 in the World Invitational. The Workshop golfer was two behind the leader, Ian Woosnam. Report, page 27; Chris Bacon

Brazil not quite a perfect blend

BY MARTIN LIPTON

THE BEAT goes on, all the way to the final, the boys from Brazil doing what was demanded at the very least by the most expectant footballing nation on the planet.

When Claudio Taffarel sprung to his right to take the air out of the Orange brass bands, the sound of the samba filling the Marseilles night, the triumph was acclaimed. But even as the silent – indeed, in some cases, quite open – prayers of the South

American bench were answered, it was clear that this Brazilian blend is not the smoothest.

Yes, of course they are a dream to watch coming forward – you would not expect anything more. Any team with Ronaldo, Rivaldo, Bebeto and Leonardo in the starting line-up, Denilson in reserve, will always captivate and excite.

With their silky combinations, intuitive skills and, above all, the total conviction that they will prevail, it seems that nobody can withstand them for long. As Pele said of Ronaldo's goal against the Dutch in Tuesday's semi-final, taking Rivaldo's ball, holding off Philip Cocu and nut-

megging Edwin van der Sar, there are moments that sum up the Brazilian style. "That was the most beautiful moment of the match," Pele said. "Ronaldo proved he is a great player. He was, without a doubt, the man of the match."

So far, all that self-belief has been proven right, with Mario Zagallo's side on course to become only the second team in World Cup history – following the side the coach was part of in Sweden in 1958 – to win on another continent.

Without doubt, the current crop – a better side than the one which won the title in the USA – are the rightful inheritors of the famous

and faded yellow shirts. Yet there is still the thought that they are ready for the biggest fall of all, that the shock of the tournament is storing itself up ready to trap them.

Norway in their miserable, anti-football style, proved in the group phase – as they had in Oslo last summer – that Zagallo's men are far from unbeatable. When they put the pressure on, with old-fashioned, long-ball tactics, the whole pack of cards folded in the space of 10 minutes. In a different, far more entertaining, way, Denmark showed up those inadequacies in the last eight, the Laudrup brothers both bowing out of international football by desta-

bilising the Brazilian back-line throughout the game.

The Netherlands did much the same on Tuesday, putting the Brazilians under pressure and watching them so nearly crack. It took a penalty shoot-out, after a 1-1 draw following extra time, before Brazil prevailed.

The problem is that defending is never a priority. Everybody wants to be Pele, Zico, Tostão or Ronaldo; nobody wants to be a stopper centre-half. Both Roberto Carlos and the first-choice right-back Cafu – sorely missed against the Dutch, who surely would have made even more inroads had Marc Overmars been fit

to run the stand-in Ze Carlos ragged – are happier ploughing up the flanks, augmenting the attack. While both Junior Baiano and Aldair cut impressive physical figures, they do at times seem to have the mobility of statues.

Junior Baiano in particular, hampered by an injury, had a shocker against the Dutch, seemingly having forgotten that defenders are allowed to jump for the ball with opposing strikers.

Fortunately, on the night, as it was against the Danes, the luck was with them. Taffarel making a truly outstanding save to foil Frank de Boer just after Ronaldo's opener. Even so,

Patrick Kluijvert should have taken advantage of the Brazilians' basic defensive failings long before he grabbed the goal that sent the semi-final into extra time.

The Milan forward, coveted by Arsenal, was allowed five clear-cut chances in all, taking just the one, and, if he had shown a fraction more composure in front of goal, the favourites would have been out.

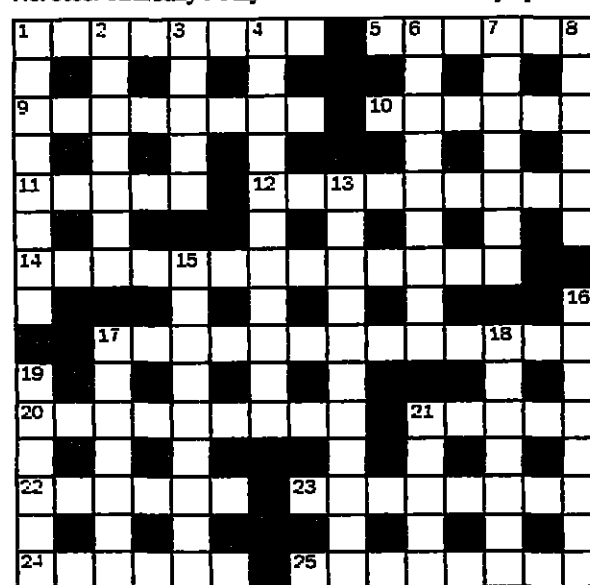
He didn't, and they aren't, with just one more obstacle in front of them before they can lift the game's most cherished prize for a fifth time. But, if the Brazilians' luck runs out on Sunday, no one can say they were not warned.

THE THURSDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3658. Thursday 9 July

By Sparius

Wednesday's solution



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ACROSS

- 1 Initially unseen, people caught fish to poach (8)
- 5 They're sometimes indicated by slips (6)
- 9 The issue of offspring (8)
- 10 Originally, sacred carving by Egyptian, possibly in form of beetle (6)
- 11 Drink, one drunk with a pinch of cinnamon (5)
- 12 Not difficult getting academic appointment for Morris, maybe? (4,5)
- 14 Means to get rid of dirty habits? (7,8)
- 17 One unlikely to be found in residence with wings and a corridor? (4,2,7)
- 20 School janitor's a racketeer; artfully concealing illegal drug (9)

DOWN

- 1 Trophy for son, about to attain record (5)
- 2 Hammer-thrasher given a kiss on the chest (6)
- 3 A spell or two in Oz? (8)
- 4 Impudent child starts to exasperate even kind youth leader (6)
- 5 Cut off from established order (8)
- 6 Items taken from the Chinese revealing what happens in old Easter custom? (3,5)
- 7 Talk on French beverage, and where it's produced (7)
- 8 Happy to go topless in past? (5)
- 9 Course manual (7,4)
- 10 Delicacies produced by Gibraltar baker? (4,5)

IN A BEDROOM WITH ONE OF THE CARDINALS, SIDE BY SIDE (7)

- 8 Goldsmith's deserted village by bend in a stream (6)
- 9 Hens cooped up on such occasions? (4,7)
- 10 The information highway? (4,5)
- 11 One of the "beginners" they open in play (8)
- 12 Lawyers' professional ethic which checks out? (3,4)
- 13 Don't stay with a group ultimately lacking unity (7)
- 14 Rather sharp ice act in resort (6)
- 15 Way to advertise flight (5)

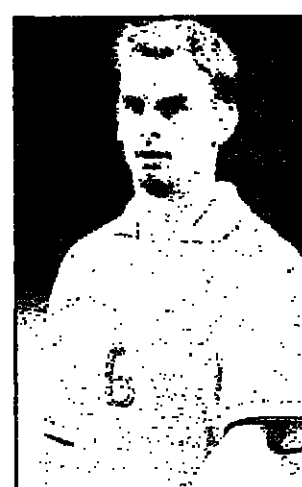
Dutch fall short of great predecessors

THE DUTCH football team took their first day off in four weeks yesterday. It was five days too early. Training, scheduled for the morning, was cancelled. No reason was given, but none was needed. The Netherlands lost 4-2 on penalties to Brazil in the World Cup semi-final after 120 minutes of open play had produced a 1-1 draw and were out of the tournament.

Yesterday, as Dutch fans slunk away from Marseilles, smiling through their tear-stained orange face paint, the squad retreated to the isolation of their cliff-top hotel near Monaco. The Dutch had hoped to go one step further than their predecessors in 1974 and 1978, who reached the final. In the end, they fell one hurdle short and, as four years ago, Brazil proved their downfall. Then it was the quarter-final, and the Dutch lost 3-2.

Comparisons have frequently been made to the side of 1974, a team regarded by many as the best not to have won the title. Then the Dutch boasted the likes of the Jans, Cruyff and Neeskens. This Dutch side has slightly lesser talents, but have delighted the world with their play. The lack of an individual star such as Ronaldo, who scored on Tuesday, often left them short of the killer punch, but their forte was teamwork – some considered them the best unit in the tournament.

The manner of Tuesday's semi-final defeat also has some echoes of the 1978 final, when they lost to Argentina. Brazil,



De Boer: Hasty penalty

like Argentina 20 years before, took the lead and on both occasions the Dutch only equalised in the last minutes.

Twenty years ago, Dick Nanninga struck in the 80th minute. On Tuesday, Patrick Kluijvert headed in seven minutes later. In 1978, the Dutch had a golden chance to win, but Rob Rensenbrink's shot in the dying seconds struck the post.

Kluijvert managed to push a shot just wide of the upright against Brazil, while two minutes from the end of extra time the Dutch had what they thought was a valid penalty appeal dismissed when Pierre van Hooijdonk's shirt was pulled. The Dutchman went down, but was booked for diving.

Unlike the 1978 side, who even surprised themselves by

reaching the final, the Dutch on Tuesday believed they had outplayed their opponents. In reality, the match was finely balanced, but the Dutch were certainly left to rue their missed chances and quietly to mull a few "What ifs".

"It's always rather cheap to say that players weren't there. Overmars and Numan didn't play, but I don't want to search for excuses. We had a fine squad and the players on the field did a good job," Guus Hiddink, the coach, said.

Defeat should not mark the break-up of the Dutch squad. Two years on in Euro 2000, the same faces should appear, while in Japan and South Korea in 2002, age will only have caught up with two of Tuesday's starters, Wim Jonk and Dennis Bergkamp. The latter's fear of flying is also likely to rule him out.

For the next time, they may wish to practise penalty-taking.

Tuesday's loss was the third time the Dutch have lost on penalty shoot-outs. They went down 5-4 to France in Euro 96 and lost to Denmark in the 1992 European Championship when Marco van Basten missed.

Ronald de Boer missed the fourth penalty against Brazil, ending his side's interest in the World Cup. "I should have waited just a moment longer and seen that the keeper was going one way," he said. The Dutch may have won friends in France for their play, but they have proved yet again that they, like England and Italy, are losers at the penalty game.

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THURSDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



D Informers

How does an 'ordinary decent criminal' like David Norris turn 'grass' (as his colleagues would call him) or 'one of the most prolific informers ever' (as he is known to the police)? His story reveals the dangers of the secret world where criminals and law enforcers collide

DAVID NORRIS was what they used to call an "ordinary decent criminal". That was before he became a turncoat. The war baby of a respectable working-class family from Colliers Wood in south London, Norris had an unremarkable life until teenage larking about and fighting led him into crime. He worked for a spell as a coalman, but after a few convictions for petty offences respectable employment was no longer an option.

Norris's moment of truth came after being caught, 40 years old, "red-eyed" on a burglary in a shoe shop. Afterwards, in the police interview room, he was not feeling too clever. No self-respecting thief is caught on the job, especially in a shoe shop. Norris was gloomily contemplating another spell in prison, when an astute detective made him an offer he could not refuse.

The detective arranged for a letter to the judge in the Norris case from a senior officer at Scotland Yard, explaining that David Norris would now be assisting the police. It did the trick. He got off with no prison sentence and went to work as a "grass".

Every criminal deprecates a grass, but where two or three criminals are gathered together there is someone who, under pressure, is prepared to spill the beans. The cost of betrayal is high. The criminal world has many words of disdain for the informer, among them "nark", "squealer" and "snout". The newer term "grass" owes much to the wartime song "Whispering Grass" written by Fred Fisher in 1940 for The Inkspots:

You promised me green grass, not to tell what you heard,
Whispering grass say you can't keep your word.
Why do you whisper green grass?
Why tell the trees what isn't so?
Whispering Grass the trees don't have to know.

Why do informers like Norris whisper? One case-hardened police officer says: "It's not always as obvious as it looks. It's more than getting off a jail sentence." Most informers are already in the thick of crime, and start to co-operate with the police after being arrested. "But once they start they often carry on much longer than you would expect," says a Customs investigator. "With some of the older ones it is like a father-son relationship. They give you tips to help your career, in a fatherly sort of way."

Money may be part of it. According to one police officer, "Most payments are just a tenner or £50." But there are professional informers. If a grass names the culprits of a big robbery and a successful prosecution follows, the insurance company may pay out up to 10 per cent of the value of the stolen goods. In major robberies this can amount to tens of thousands of pounds. The police do not encourage large rewards but, as a senior investigator told

us, Customs has been known, in exceptional circumstances, to pay an informer on drug smuggling up to £250,000.

By 1985, when David Norris decided to take the plunge into the world of betrayal and a new, double life, he had split up with his first wife. He was a good-looking man who stood 5ft 11in, and his warm, easy-to-talk-to manner was attractive to women. He liked clubbing and expensive cars but was also proud of his family and his children. When he remarried, to Debbie, 20 years his junior, he maintained close contact with the kids.

"He was definitely a family man," says Harold, a local villain who knew Norris well. "He was hard-looking but not a bully. He looked like a well-respected working man and liked being generous in the old-fashioned way. If an old dear or a pensioner in cloth cap came into the bar he'd buy them a drink. Not flash, mind you."

Most forces are expanding their use of informers. The Audit Commission has repeatedly recommended that the police increase their use, as the most cost-effective method of tackling crime. Surprisingly few detectives previously developed informers, but the practice has now dramatically expanded.

The image of the "grass" in TV series such as *The Bill* and *Collan* is of a sleazy, craven, unshaven low life. In reality, many look like respectable businessmen. Dave Norris was typical.

"He wasn't much on paper, but when it came down to it and he started feeding the police intelligence they really started cleaning up," says Ian, a former detective. Norris found a role, and was playing it to the hilt. Much of his information was gathered from friends and acquaintances in the shadier pubs of South London.

"He had a circle of friends who looked up to him. They never twigged him and even when the finger of suspicion pointed they would resolutely and gen-

uinely defend him as staunch," says another former associate.

Norris, meanwhile, teased out tidbits of vital intelligence. Pub chat had it that a man had a load of television sets to move. "How many?" Norris would enquire. On being told, he'd say it was not for him and leave it at that. Later, by telephone or in the restaurants where he met his handlers, the information would be passed on. These officers took care to keep their distance. The history of informers is littered with cases of detectives getting too close - with messy results. Nurturing an informant requires a detective to build a close relationship with a criminal that is inevitably open to abuse by both sides.

BY PAUL LASHMAR & ANDY WEIR

The temptations are strong. Many detectives have been known to give their informants free rein to carry on their own criminal careers, so long as the stream of "bodies" to prosecute flows strongly, and even to split rewards. Some "snouts" consciously maintain their prominent position by feeding petty villains lower down the underworld food chain to their pals in the force.

One thief who was happy with this was Roy Garner, a robber, drugs smuggler and Freemason who earned hundreds of thousands of pounds in reward money throughout the Seventies and into the Eighties while receiving not a single conviction. He was once ironically labelled "the Untouchable". Garner was an active and successful criminal, much more so than Norris, and belonged to a breed of villains who maintain "respected" status while betraying their comrades.

Unfortunately for Garner, Customs was not privy to any cosy arrangement he may have had with the Met, so they arrested him and had him jailed

twice, the second time for organising one of Britain's biggest-ever cocaine shipments. He is currently serving 16 years in jail.

Scandals such as Garner's led in the early Eighties to a tightening of the rules on handling informants. Even so, police contacts with criminals continue to be open to misinterpretation. The Stephen Lawrence inquiry was told that a Customs surveillance team had observed a Flying Squad detective meeting a target criminal, Clifford Norris (no relation to the informer, but the father of the 21-year-old suspect in the Lawrence murder) three times in 1987 and 1988 in a pub in Chislehurst. During one meeting a carrier bag was handed over. Customs reported the unauthorised meetings to Scotland Yard. The detective later explained to senior officers that he was trying to cultivate Clifford Norris as an informer. The explanation was accepted and he was not disciplined.

The officers handling David Norris, initially a detective inspector and later a commander, stuck by the rules. The police never quite understood why Norris kept informing. He kept it up long after he had delivered his side of the original deal, and never seemed to put up people against whom he had a grievance - a trait of most informers.

It was certainly lucrative. Not only was Norris profiting from whatever deals he was not betraying to the police, but he also earned well - up to £40,000 over a four-year period in rewards alone. He put some of the money into a haulage business with a yard in Bermondsey, but whether it was to provide a legitimate excuse for all the cash now flowing through his hands, or an effort to set up a genuinely straight business, is not clear.

A typical Norris success concerned a container load of spirits. One day, Norris was buying shorts in the bar when one of his friends could not resist joking that he didn't fancy one, as he'd have £1m-worth of whisky on Monday. Now on the alert, Nor-

ris played it cool, observing the crook's protocol by asking no more. He was only biding his time.

He told his handlers about the whisky, having already worked out that it had not yet been stolen. It was Friday, and most efficient thieves arrange fencing on goods before they are lifted, so as to minimise the time they are in possession. The police needed more, though, if they were going to be able to do anything about it.

Norris accordingly went back and found out what brand of whisky was involved. The police were lucky: it was an export brand not sold in large quantities and they quickly established that the target had to be one of seven lorry trailers up and down the country. One of them looked vulnerable, so the police mounted watch on it. Sure enough, in the early hours of Sunday morning a man drove up and snipped off the padlock of the haulage yard and hitched up the trailer with the whisky on board.

He drove off, only to be stopped, as prearranged, a few miles up the road by a Department of Transport team, accompanied by police officers apparently doing spot checks for overloaded lorries. When the driver failed to produce his paperwork, he was arrested and the whisky "discovered". Norris was in the clear and later got £2,000 from the informant fund.

The former detective Ian makes it clear that recruiting Norris was one of the smartest moves the Met ever made. "He was one of the most successful and prolific informers they ever had. He gave them leads that led to the prosecution and imprisonment of dozens of villains, from relative small-timers getting 12 to 18 months, all the way to a team of armed robbers who were ambushed and arrested, and got 20 years on his tip-off."

David Norris's role as an informer was known only to a small handful of detectives. The Lawrence inquiry heard that other officers had an associate of Clifford Norris, Gary French, under surveillance

continued on page 9

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A family of businesses

Days and the confused

PEOPLE SOMETIMES complain to me that when National Leave Your Car At Home Day or National Give Up Smoking Day comes along, they haven't had adequate warning, so they never really get a chance to give up their car or their cigarettes.

Right. This is your last chance. I have compiled a list of the most significant designated Days, with a few notes on each, between now and the end of the year, which should be enough notice.

10 July "National No Queue-Jumping Day". This one is aimed at the most ruthless queue-burgers in our society, ie little old ladies. Stay in your place, grant! Wait your turn! Just for 24 hours...

13 July "National Root Vegetable Day". The organisers, the Root Vegetable Council,

Yes, come to think of it, why should anyone want to eat peanuts, anyway? "You may well be right," says smiling Likki Shuktar, head of the Global Peanut Council.

17 Aug "National Adopt a Granny Day". There is always a constant drive to get children fostered, but not old people, who need it just as much. The Save The Aged Fund wants you to take in an old person just for the day to see if the idea appeals, and you might do it full time.

30 Aug "National Parsnip Day". A sneaky effort by the Root Vegetable Council to get two days in 1998. Ignore.

5 Sep "National Bring Back The Monarchy Day". A puzzling one, this, as the monarchy has not yet been abolished. Perhaps Buckingham Palace are up to their tricks again.

8 Sep "National Use-A-Long Word Day". Another government attempt to promote literacy. Among the long words they recommend are "multi-culturalism", "demonophilia" and "sanctimoniousness".

23 Sep "National Ring-The-Samaritans Day". Did you know that over 98 per cent of the calls received by the Samaritans are from people who can't manage? That's pretty damned depressing, especially if you're working for the Samaritans. So today ring them up - with a cheerful message! Cheer up a Samaritan!

1 Oct "National Leek Awareness Week". This sounds vaguely familiar.

24 Oct "National 'Don't I know You From Somewhere?' Week". In an attempt to break down our usual social barriers, the organisers are urging us to acquaint total strangers. The police have promised not to prosecute.

3 Nov "National Retrain-A-Lord Day". As the abolition of the Upper House approaches, many an unemployable peer will be cast on the streets. Can you do your bit?

17 Nov "National Be Nice To A Scotsman Day". This will have a different name north of the border, where it will be known as "National 'Get-Lost-You-Patronising-English-Git!' Day".

18 Nov "National Why-Don't-You-Forget-Christmas-Cards-This-Year? Day".

1 Dec "National Wipe-The-Top-Of-Your-Ketchup-Bottle-Before-You-Screw-The-Top-Back-On Day".

4 Dec "National Give-Catholicism-A-Try Day".

25 Dec "National Birth of Jesus Day".



MILES KINGTON

The most significant designated Days between now and the end of the year

are trying to raise awareness of things like swedes and turnips. Trouble is, most people can't even tell the difference between swedes and turnips. So people from the Root Vegetable Council are going out into the streets to challenge people to tell the difference and if they can, they will get a free swede. Or turnip.

19 July "National I'm-Not-That-Craig-Brown-I'm-Another-Craig-Brown-Day!". This is on behalf of all the people called Craig Brown in Britain who get confused with the one man who has the maddening energy to manage the Scotland football team and review all those restaurants and write all that funny stuff.

22 July "National Overtipping Day".

27 July "National 'You May Well Be Right' Day". The organisers feel it is time to cut down on confrontation in our society. Just for this one day, they say, why not avoid an argument and say, "You may well be right?"

4 Aug "National Read-Some-Other-Else's-Newspaper Day".

7 Aug "National Peanut Day". The peanut has a hard time. It seems to attract allergies. It chokes people. The cuisine of Indonesia is seemingly based on peanut butter.



The latest in our series celebrating 50 years of the NHS shows preparations under way in the operating theatre at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge

Brian Harris

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Global trade

Sir: Lord Clinton-Davis states (letters, 6 July) that international trade in genetically modified foods is governed by the World Trade Organisation and that the Multilateral Agreement on Investment, currently under negotiation, will not affect the right of countries to restrict their import. Unfortunately, this is very far from clear. Experience under agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta), where major corporations have used non-discrimination clauses to override environmental protection and health regulations, shows that practice under the MAI is likely to be much worse. As an example, the *Economist* reported (18 April) that US tobacco firms claim that a Canadian requirement that health warnings on cigarette packs should be bigger than the brand name amounts to expropriation of their assets, which would allow them to sue for compensation. The MAI, which has been referred to as "Nafta on steroids", goes much further to undermine national sovereignty in favour of rights for multinationals. It is an extremely dangerous agreement that must be stopped.

TONY JUMPER
Campaigns and Policy Director
Friends of the Earth
London NW1

Sir: Lord Clinton-Davis claims the MAI will help developing countries encourage and retain investment. In fact, it will curtail many of the powers they currently enjoy to direct investment to serving their particular local needs (eg by insisting on small-scale, local exploitation of certain resources, or by domestic content quotas). The MAI confers unprecedented new rights on international investors without requiring any obligations in return. Unless it is amended it will remain a charter for global corporate rule and an attack on democracy.

MARK BRYAN
Derby

Young refugees

Sir: The article "Child refugees 'illegally held' in the UK" (6 July) was misleading.

We do not knowingly detain anyone under the age of 28. Young people are always referred to the Refugee Council's panel of advisers as a matter of course.

Sometimes there can be difficulties where there is no reliable evidence of the age of someone who initially claims to be an adult but subsequently claims to be under 18 because they know that we do not detain minors. The use of forged documentation and the deliberate destruction of passports before arrival make disputes over age difficult to resolve. We always give the benefit of the doubt whenever we can.

Whilst I am unable to discuss the three individual cases referred to in your article, I can confirm that the Immigration Service released these individuals once evidence of their age was available.

The only other circumstances in which a child or young person is

detained are to prevent the separation of children from their families, or when an unaccompanied child arrives late at night at one of our ports when the Immigration Service is unable to make immediate contact with social services.

The Government is committed to meeting all its international obligations and our policies are fully consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

MIKE O'BRIEN MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Home Office
London SW1

Liddle and tape

Sir: The question of whether the disputed conversation between Roger Liddle and the Observer was taped only became an issue because the Observer made it an issue. I am not setting any new standards for journalism as your editorial (8 July) claims. I merely said that as the paper said they had the conversation on tape, they should produce it. Mr Palast said on Radio 5 that he had it on tape "for certain". It took several letters from here, several direct challenges by Clive Soley MP to Mr Palast on *Newsnight* and a night for them to sleep on it before the paper finally admitted they had no tape. On the wider issue, of lobbyists, the Prime Minister has acknowledged that this is an area in which the new Government must be very vigilant, and is insisting upon new, toughened guidelines which are being drawn up by the Cabinet Secretary.

ALASTAIR CAMPBELL
Chief Press Secretary
10 Downing Street, London

Sir: Charles Miller's article (Right of Reply, 7 July) highlights the very problem with lobbyists. Using his example, the "Midlands Parent-Teacher Association" would not instruct a firm of lobbyists because they could not afford them. To suggest that the lobbying industry provides an additional lever by which ordinary people can influence events is misleading. On the contrary they exist strictly to serve those with most money available by short-cutting the normal process of democracy. There is nothing wrong in lobbyists attempting to earn a living, but please, save us from the creepy disingenuous self-justification.

WILLIAM PINNOCK
London SW15

Jacobson's game

Sir: I was intrigued by the article of Howard Jacobson headlined "Playing ping pong with the nation of Islam" (Weekend Review, 4 July), particularly with the writer's enthusiasm for ping pong. Then I remembered, was this the same Howard Jacobson who while a student at Stand Grammar School, Whitefield, Manchester, would, along with his friends, completely monopolise the school ping pong table at every spare moment, so that my friends and I could never get a game? If it is then we should be told.

GRAHAM BROWN
Chester
It is - Editor

Profit from rail

Sir: I was interested to see a small piece in today's *Independent* (Railtrack sale, 7 July) about Railtrack's planned sale of between £750m and £800m worth of property leases in London.

As Liberal Democrat transport spokesman at the time of Railtrack's privatisation, I argued that such sales would inevitably take place, and that the profit-sharing agreement should be heavily weighted in favour of the taxpayer and not the Railtrack shareholder.

As it is, there is little to stop the £600m Railtrack will be allowed to keep from making its way straight into the shareholders' pockets. And while the article made no mention of what Railtrack's intentions are in this regard, I could not help but note that the piece appeared in your business pages, rather than in the news section.

DAVID CHIDGEY MP
House of Commons

Sir: Co-operation among train companies? James Gordon, Director general, Association of Train Operating Companies, wrote (letters, 27 June): "All the train companies are committed to a better integrated public transport system, and understand that this will only be achieved by co-operation..."

There are three companies operating in my part of the world: Great Eastern, Network East and Anglia. Network East and Great Eastern co-operate in running a Network East card offering considerable saving to passengers. Anglia, in their wisdom, do not take part in the scheme. Hence, all intercity trains (which are run by Anglia) are forbidden fruit to Network East card-holders. This is understandable at peak times, but a fast, empty and inaccessible late-night train in frustrating the extreme. Co-operation and integration a mere chimera?

ZELIE JOPLING
Colchester

Lawyers' incomes

Sir: As a practising barrister I have always had, and will continue to have, the greatest respect for the medical profession notwithstanding Professor John A Davis's diatribe (7 July) in which he makes offensive allegations about lawyers and what he supposes their income to be, derived, I suspect, from Lord Irvine's remarks about the earnings of a handful of practitioners. The ordinary barrister, just as the run-of-the-mill consultant physician or surgeon, receives, at best, a modest income. Moreover, the ethics of the legal profession will stand comparison with those of the medical profession any day.

It is a thousand pities that such a distinguished medical man as Professor Davis should allow himself the indulgence of wild and inaccurate remarks to bolster a good case which he otherwise makes for the doctors. Of course, there are a few in both professions who let the side down, but the criticism of both doctors and lawyers springs from envy of those who wrongly suppose

that they are overpaid and under worked simply because the Lord Chancellor, so far as lawyers are concerned, seeks to stir up hostility to mask his intention to destroy the availability of legal aid which helps to make justice accessible to the poor and should be improved to help the middle classes as well. To concentrate upon a mere handful of lawyers making millions (so it is said) in a handful of cases is as bad as making the false assumption that every medical consultant is a millionaire.

STANLEY BEST
Wimleigh
Devon

Combating insects

Sir: Your front page article "Why mosquitoes love a hot man with aftershave" (6 July) identified smelly feet as an attractant for mosquitoes. Some years ago workers in the Netherlands and Tanzania observed that Limburger cheese had a similar effect. The similarity of *Brevibacterium linens*, the organism involved in cheese production to *E. epidermidis* found in smelly feet may be the reason. In experiments was found that the Anopheles mosquito, the most common vector of malaria in Africa, showed as much interest in the cheese as in the feet of a volunteer. Presumably that interest was short-lived when the expected blood meal was not forthcoming.

Each year the brochures bulge with the temptation of travel to exotic locations. Each year malaria infection is the cause of serious infection, and sadly sometimes death, among returning tourists. Malaria continues to demonstrate increasing resistance to drugs used for prevention and treatment. Perhaps Limburger cheese (or one of equivalent mosquito appeal) baited traps will be recommended luggage for the future traveller.

M A HEGARTY (DR)
King's Lynn, Norfolk

Ignoble power

Sir: I feel reassured by the sterling work of the international monitors at Drumcree ("Parade monitors sing for peace", 7 July). Their help and support is gratefully appreciated. Joann Chase says that she feels for the oppressed who are "trying to empower themselves". Perhaps your excellent Mr McKittrick could show her a copy of your front-page article "A day of confrontation. A night of terror" to show Mr Chase and others how people empower themselves here.

NHAMMERSLEY
Belfast

Sir: The believers and the non-believers have wasted enough space in your columns. Since neither will accept anything said by the other and shows no interest in debate, I ask them to cease and desist. There are enough problems of mutual concern in this world irrespective of race, colour or creed. Whilst they argue, Ireland burns again. "A plague on both your houses."

SIMON C ALLEN
Little Gaddesden, Herts

Rough sleepers

Sir: Any attempt to tackle rough-sleeping and homelessness in Britain must take account of the appalling toll it takes on people's health. Rough-sleepers have the worst health of any group in the country and often lack access to primary care because of the difficulties they experience in registering with a doctor. They suffer not only from serious physical ill health but are more likely to experience painful mental health problems.

The Government's initiative to reduce the incidence of rough-sleeping must give priority to the health needs of this vulnerable group of people. Measures to improve access to local health services must be coordinated with the efforts to get people off the streets.

Rough-sleepers also need access to appropriate accommodation. Many are reluctant to use shelters, for example, because of concerns about poor hygiene, the threat of violence and overcrowded conditions.

The Under One Roof project, funded by the King's Fund, is making a start in tackling these issues by bringing together health and other vital services to meet the needs of homeless people in south London. Any permanent solution to the shame of rough-sleeping in our society must encompass action to bring health services into strategies to tackle it.

RABBI JULIANEUBERGER
Chief Executive
King's Fund
London W1

IN BRIEF

Sir: "Outlook" (1 July) claimed that the OFT had had "an indifferent year" because "one third of its merger recommendations have been ignored by Margaret Beckett". The President of the Board of Trade took differing views to me in just three of 165 merger cases assessed last year. I explained that I accepted this as the normal and indeed healthy working of competition regulation and that it did not reflect any dissatisfaction with the quality of the OFT's advice.

JOHN S BRIDGEMAN
Director General of Fair Trading
London EC4

Sir: Surely the main objection to the Althorp temple is that the Princess would have approved.

ROBERT DAVIES
Lee Park, London SE

Sir: With reference to the caption below "Thought for Today" (7 July) may I point out that Thomas Carlyle was born in Ecclefechan in Dumfriesshire and is therefore Scottish.

NEIL C WALLACE
Aman, Dumfriesshire

Sir: Farwell then Roy Rogers King of the Cowboys who caught all the outlaws though I thought Trigger showed more vigour.

DAVID BISHOP
Nottingham

THE REVIEW DAY BY DAY

MONDAY REVIEW

As well as our regular columns, features and expanded comment pages, Network, our information technology section, moves to Monday.

TUESDAY REVIEW

An improved media section, with appointments, moves to Tuesday. Visual arts and more health pages are also Tuesday regulars

WEDNESDAY REVIEW

Fashion, midweek money pages, in addition to finance and secretarial sections (previously City+) will stay on Wednesday

THURSDAY REVIEW

Our education section will appear as a separate tabloid section. Improved and expanded film pages now move to Thursday

FRIDAY REVIEW

The architecture and science pages now move to Friday. In addition, we will have a new law section and our music pages

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Why take such a defensive view of foreign policy?

THE GOVERNMENT'S Strategic Defence Review has come and has finally passed off with more fuss about the manner of its publication than its contents. The leak should not actually worry anyone too much. The review was the result of a consultative process that involved everyone from the Chief of Staff to local councils. There was little left in it worth leaking by the end, however sensitive ministers have become over the proprieties of "House of Commons first".

That is no reason to dismiss the contents, which are in many ways sensible and reformist. Britain is moving from a static to a more interventionist approach to defence. Transportation, weapons and integration between the forces ("jointness", to use the terrible jargon word) are being revised as a result. You can argue with the details. The Eurofighter project still looks like a flying camel invented by a multinational committee that is fast outliving its sell-by date. The enthusiasm for big aircraft carriers smacks of the Americans' excessive reliance on air attack over troops on the ground. Given the collapse of the major traditional threat in Europe and the experience of fire-fighting in the Balkans, it is hard to quarrel with the general thrust of a review which moves defence from tanks in Germany to paratroopers on helicopters.

But to call this, as the Ministry of Defence does, Britain's first "foreign policy driven" review is balderdash. Defence policy has always been driven by foreign policy and that foreign policy has always been driven by Britain's desire to strut upon the world stage, or "to project our power overseas" as the more polite phrase has it. Since Napoleon planned but did not execute a crossing of the Channel, British prime ministers have been driven not by the fear of invasion but by the desire to protect and demonstrate their interests and influence abroad.

To that extent, interventionist defence is no more than a reversion to Lord Palmerston's gunboat diplomacy. Only we don't have the empire, the global power or the armed pre-eminence which that great seducer of public opinion, as well as women, had.

Which is precisely the point. The nature of defence has clearly changed since the end of the Cold War, although you would have to have forgotten history entirely if you thought that land invasions could never occur again in Europe. The public does not want to see Britain play an active role in foreign troubles - "the desire for the government to do something" as Douglas Hurd used to

AS FEARS GROW THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS BECOMING INCONTINENT, GEORGE ROBERTSON IS FORCED TO APOLOGISE FOR YET ANOTHER LEAK.....



say with such distaste and George Robertson repeated with a great deal more enthusiasm yesterday.

But where, and with whom? These are the questions which neither the Defence Review nor the Foreign Office have tried to answer. It is all very well saying our forces will be used in conjunction with Nato, the UN and Europe and be limited to Europe, the Mediterranean and the Middle East. But therein lies a multitude of potential disasters. You only have to think of the Balkans today or Lebanon before to understand that.

Forming part of Nato, European Union or UN intervention is fine in principle but the future of these organisations, and the extent of our contribution to them,

are not necessarily compatible. And if we are committing our forces in this way, should we not be contributing rather to a permanent UN Security Council force and a standing European army? These are the questions which a "foreign policy-led" defence strategy would have to answer. So far they have not even been addressed.

At the end of the day the aims of foreign ventures have to come first, not the means. Creating the ability without a definition of intent is simply an invitation to bluster and disaster. For what one must always remember with military questions is that politicians are paying for their own ambitions with another's life.

Time to dethrone the Church of England

ONE OF the nation's great institutions has been meeting this week in York. Its senior members are entitled by virtue of the office they hold to a place in the legislature. By Act of Parliament, it must have a representative in almost every town in the land. It has its own parliament, whose elected members are drawn almost exclusively from the ranks of the chattering classes. And it discusses everything under the sun, from racial equality to tobacco advertising.

We are referring to the General Synod of the Church of England. For all the talk about modernising Britain - reforming the House of Lords, changing the voting system - there has been barely a reference to a body no less ancient than the upper house of Parliament.

Yet there is no more anachronistic relationship in Britain today than that between the Church of England and the state. Over a century ago the movement to disestablish the church was one of the most powerful political forces. It says much about the British mind-set that after this initial unsuccessful push, the subject in effect disappeared from view. One brave soul raised it during the Synod's deliberations this week, only to be roundly dismissed by David Hope, the Archbishop of York, who expressed horror at any loosening of the bind. With an *ex officio* seat in the House of Lords, this should hardly come as a surprise.

Yet the arguments for disestablishmentarianism are overwhelming - so overwhelming that even the Prince of Wales, who will, on his accession to the throne, become head of the Church and "Defender of the Faith", seems to be in favour. Famously, he has said that he would rather be "Defender of Faith" - a recognition that modern Britain has a number of religions, many far more vibrant than the Church of England.

Tony Blair is perhaps the most overtly Christian prime minister this century. As such, he no doubt relishes his role in appointing bishops. He has already shown his concern in rejecting the shortlist offered to him for the bishopric of Liverpool. But what business is it of any politician, however righteous, to get involved in the internal appointments of a private religious body?

That is the nub of it. The established Church is not a private body, it is an arm of the state. Is it any wonder that it is in such a mess? Less than 2 per cent of the population attend Church of England services. The Church needs the freedom to be bold, to act without the inhibitions of being the established church. "Disestablish the church" may have the ring of the 19th century about it, but it is a cry that is decidedly modern.

Forget those old certainties, it's time for a little inflation

TODAY THE economic wizards on the Bank of England's monetary committee will decide what to do about our interest rates.

No, I don't know what they will do, but then nor do they - if you are reading this on Thursday morning, they will still be talking about it. What is clear is that this is an important meeting. While inflation has been perking up in recent weeks, so too have worries about the world economy, as the Asian recession threatens to spread. Meanwhile, the high UK rates needed to curb inflation have forced up sterling, hit exports and plunged manufacturing industry into despair.

Economic policy-makers frequently face dilemmas, but at the moment the one facing this lot is particularly sharp. Should they pay more attention to their statutory duty, which is to take the right measures to hold inflation around 2.5 per cent? Or should they take a wider view of the dangers threatening the world economy (and of course British manufacturing) and reckon that the inflation risk is the lesser of the two?

This matters for all of us, for we have to pay the higher interest rates, or receive the higher rates on our savings, but it also matters for the Bank committee itself. The country is still in the early stages of an experiment, for until a year ago these decisions were taken by the Chancellor. You can believe that he did not do it very well - the charge is he held down rates ahead of the election to try to engineer political popularity for the Tories - but still question whether the present arrangement of rates being fixed by an unelected cabal is optimal.

I happen to think that it is better to have interest rates set outside the political sphere and that having them done by people at an independent central bank is the least bad alternative. But it is hard to feel completely comfortable about the way the monetary committee has in practice functioned.

Leave aside whether the members have been making the right decisions or not, and just consider the fact that they were for a while split down the middle as to whether raise rates. When last month they put up rates, they did so on what everyone assumes was a narrow majority judgement - we have to wait for the minutes to find out for sure.

At the very least the committee should learn from US and German experience of independent central banking systems and try to reach some sort of consensus. Any new system, by its very nature, will be on trial. No one is asking them to be clones, but by failing to reach a consensus the monetary committee members have put themselves more on trial than they needed to.

So will UK inflation or the threat of world recession win today's debate? Whichever way the committee members jump, they surely ought to worry more about the latter.

It is very hard when things are swinging along fine to remember that they will not be fine for ever. Divide the world economy into three time-zones. One-third of it is in terrible shape: virtually the whole time-zone of East Asia is either already in recession or heading into it. A second zone, Europe, is still growing modestly, but the fastest-growing bit for the last

HAMISH MCRAE
Don't buy a BMW in August, but go out and have some expensive meals in restaurants

five years, the UK, is now slowing down. It has been demand from the UK that has helped continental European economies to pull out of recession: domestic demand in Germany, Italy and France is flat. As for the final third, the US, its growth has been extraordinarily strong. But in the last few weeks the collapse of demand from East Asia has been hitting the profits of American companies. As a result confidence is wobbling. We can no longer expect America to pull the rest of us along.

Notoriously, economists find it hard to agree on anything. But the one thing on which they seem to have reached a measure of agreement is that "disinflation" (falling prices) is becoming the dominant feature of the world economy.

Here, our prices still seem to be going up, but that is largely because

the Government has stuck extra tax on petrol and cigarettes, and (last month) prices of some seasonal foods went up. At a wholesale level (the prices that companies can charge to retailers), prices are not rising at all. In fact they are lower than they were a year ago. Elsewhere in the world this lack of pricing power by producers is becoming the dominant force. New cars in the US are cheaper than they were a year ago: the same in Japan. Try and put up your prices and people head off elsewhere.

There is a further twist here. If the world is heading into a period of disinflation, maybe we have a slight advantage in having just a little inflation in this country. It might even be a weapon which enables the UK to pull through the next world recession in slightly better shape than the rest.

Can this really be true? We have been told so often, and quite rightly, about the evils of inflation, that the very idea that a little of the stuff might be no bad thing seems almost sacrilegious. In a world where there is reasonably steady economic growth and a modest upward creep in prices, you do indeed put yourselves at a disadvantage by letting things rip. That was the old stop-go economics which dominated post-war Britain and which was deeply damaging: just as companies had geared up for extra production, bang, interest rates went up and public spending was cut.

But that is not today's world. In Japan prices are falling, the economy is in recession and the government is desperate to try to find some way of making people spend more. Cut interest rates? No good, because they

are already so low. Cut taxes? No good, because people save the money instead of spending it. On the continent the same disease is occurring, albeit in less virulent form.

You do not need to believe that what is happening in Japan will become the norm for the rest of the developed world to see that there are some advantages in having consumers who will go out and spend money when they have it put in their bank accounts. If a country enters this world with a slight inflation problem, and the correspondingly high interest rates needed to control it, then at least it has the option of stimulating demand by bringing rates back down.

So maybe the advantage lies not in having a bit of inflation as such, but rather in having consumers who are not frightened of spending money, in our *inflation mentality*: the feeling that you might as well spend the stuff now because prices will probably be higher in a few months time. And if they are not, well, the Bank of England will cut interest rates, won't it, so we will be OK?

Of course what we have to do is to persuade people to spend the money at home so we keep it moving round here, rather than giving it to companies in other countries. So here is the new rule of behaviour, to be approved by the earnest folk at the Bank of England. Don't buy a BMW in the August rush, but go out and have some good (or at least expensive) meals in British restaurants instead.

And if, against the odds, there is another rise in interest rates? Expect them to be coming down fast before the end of the autumn.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Even with my sinuses I could smell the stench coming out of these revelations."
William Hague,
Leader of the Opposition

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Honesty is the best policy, but he who is governed by that maxim is not an honest man."
Richard Whately,
English logician and theologian

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WHAT FUN to see a rattled Peter Mandelson saying: "I know thee not, young man," to poor Derek Draper, who, until Sunday, was making a handsome living out of being his best friend. How piquant to see Tony Blair, another "pretty straight guy", having to escape allegations of "sleaze". Mr Hague can and should make hay with all this. Editorial, *The Daily Telegraph*

clutch of lobbyists boasting of their access to new Labour is not, as some commentators ludicrously claim, evidence of a Blair version of Tory sleaze. Both Liddle and Draper are revealed in their comments as a couple of boastful prats. The Prime Minister should be livid: here are his people talking to businessmen as if every conspiracy theory about "Tony's cronies" was literal truth. Andrew Marr, *The Express*

THE CLOSER someone is to him, the harder it is for Blair to take action.

MONITOR

THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

The 'cash for favours' charges facing the Government

That applies to two men in particular - Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, and Roger Liddle, from the No 10 Policy Unit.

Hanging on to them as accusations and pressure

mount will damage the Government more. Mr Blair has launched an inquiry, but he needs to take action, too. Editorial, *The Mirror*

AFTER 14 months in power,

has Mr Blair matured sufficiently to wean himself from the favourite of his salad days? Or is the Prime Minister still so dependent on Mr Mandelson that he must clasp him ever closer to his political bosom as the grand, divisive and eminently mistrusted vizier of his Downing Street court? Editorial, *The Daily Mail*

TO FALL like Lucifer, one must first be beloved of the Almighty. Derek Draper was Mandelson's "Muttley". Mr Blair's beamish boy.

Mr Draper has a blash

charm, a chutzpah, that recalls a John Baine or Stan Barstow hero, a northern card anxious to find Room at the Top. After an overdose of earnestness from some policy wonks it was refreshing to take a champagne antidote with Draper. Although his hinterland is more Soho than Bloomsbury, he added colour to the Left. The Del Boy of new Labour personified two trends of our times: the professionalisation of politics and the sheer self-hugging exclusivity of Blair's Praetorian Guard. Michael Gove, *The Times*

PANDORA

A PICTURE of Derek Draper's student days at the University of Manchester is beginning to emerge. Readers will not be surprised to learn that it's a bizarre one. Draper's behaviour as a student politician was described, in early 1990, by various of his peers as "criminal", "out of control" and "mad" in various issues of *Grip*, a student union newspaper.

He was suspended in 1990 from his position as "communications officer" with the student union of the University of Manchester; he was also sued - successfully - for £1,500 in damages after angrily defacing 4,000 copies of *Grip*, which ran an editorial accusing him of being "arrogant and self-important".

UNDER THE splash "Draper Ditched", *Grip* described Draper's various activities in lurid detail, including "throwing coffee around its meetings, intimidating a speaker at a meeting of Labour Club and throwing their leaflets out of an upstairs window".

The Labour Club meeting involved a woman speaker from Poland talking about Eastern Europe. According to one witness, "the way he was shouting at the speaker was absolutely mad". The Polish woman later told one student "that she never knew that Stalinism existed in Britain until she saw Derek Draper".

However, at least one of Draper's fellow students, Douglas Wong, had the foresight to suggest in 1990, "A lot of us here think that perhaps the world of student politics is too small for his expansive talents."



NOBODY LIKES a braggart, but Pandora cannot resist the temptation to do a little bragging. Tuesday's announcement of the BBC's decision to ask Lord Bragg to give up his host's role on "Start the Week", because of political conflict of interest, came as no surprise to our readers. Pandora's lead story on Tuesday morning predicted as much.

That said, readers will surely feel some sympathy for Lord Bragg. It's hardly as if he's the only close friend of New Labour at the BBC. Take Alan Yentob, Controller of BBC1, who is a regular on the New Labour social circuit and a special media advisor to Peter Mandelson's Millennium Dome project.

Unlike Melvyn Bragg, Yentob has not taken a seat on the Government benches. However, like Bragg, he is a highly talented broadcaster with a wealth of experience, one of the Corporation's strongest executive assets. The BBC is faced with a difficult task when it seeks to ensure that all broadcasters are completely free of political bias.

LORD ARCHER generously donated his services as an auctioneer to Monday's cancer research fundraiser at the Royal Academy. Pandora spoke to him before the bidding and asked his reaction to the "Stop Archer" campaign being waged behind the scenes by a number of Tories who oppose his bid to stand in London's mayoralty election. A pained look appeared on the author-politician's face, he waved his hand disdainfully, then walked away without a word.

Pandora fervently hopes that his former colleagues' disloyalty has not depressed Archer to the point that his normally unrestrained and effusive good spirits are going, going, gone.

THE HUNT is on for "Playmate 2000". *Playboy* magazine has launched a multi-million dollar search for the young woman whose perfect physical attributes will unfold for all the world to see (including staples) in its January 2000 issue. The quest for the Millennium Playmate is being conducted on a special luxurious, photo-studio-equipped bus which began a 35-city tour of North America on Tuesday. In view of the mode of transportation, it seems unlikely that British beauty will have any chance of winning this epoch-making distinction. Pandora is disconsolate.

Spare a dime. Forget the 'buddy'



BIDISHA

Those with the luxury of a stable home do not understand what it is like to be without one

NOT SO long ago, a dog was the favourite accessory for the bourgeoisie. If you wanted to indulge yourself a little more, you could adopt something from further afield - a lion cub or an elephant. Now, it is time to upgrade to a real person.

With the aid of a brochure from Amnesty, which operates as a sort of international model agency for the destitute, a little girl with charmingly mournful eyes can be yours. If you have been especially lucky in your choice, your "adopted child" will have a life-threatening "exotic" disease, whose successful cure your donations will fund. "Terrible state they're in, over there," you can say over your rocket salad. "So glad to help."

Now our funky Prime Minister, through the new "homelessness tsar", is beginning to make it possible for all Britain's secret saviours to lend a hand in the war against poverty.

One can imagine him sitting in a meeting with his fresh-faced crew of Oxbridge Saab-drivers, saying earnestly, "Now, the feeling we're trying to create is one of em-

pathy. These homeless people are just like us, you know."

Blair suggests that buyers of *The Big Issue* make the leap from everyday condescension to full-on buddhism. El Tote is so out of touch, he does not realise that most people buy the magazine out of guilt and a very English fear of being hassled on the street; they then sit on the Tube self-consciously pretending to read it

while trying to stifle their yawns. They carry it poking out of their bags as a mobile advertisement of their liberalism, though when a homeless person who does not possess the distinction of having been appointed a magazine vendor asks them for spare change, the answer is always no.

Those who have the luxury of a stable home simply do not understand what it is to be without one, and the Government's plans reflect this. Instead, we have a terribly nice, terribly liberal and also terribly patronising desire to help out.

Concerned parties can involve themselves with the lives of those in need through weekly meetings, apparently, while being spared the inconvenience of having to take home one of those scruffy tramps.

How is this supposed to work? Is Ms Chartered Accountant to deliver her chosen urchin some smoked salmon and a few filled baguettes for his *petit déjeuner*? Or, as an aid to his house-hunting problems, possibly slip him some photocopies from Sunday magazine adverts of lovely Dorset cottages?

And as far as advice goes, Mr Hotshot Journalist could proffer no less profound musings than "Oh yes, I know what it is to be without a home. When my loft was being converted I even slept on a friend's floor for a month. Lacquered wood, you know, atrociously under-ergonomic. And it was such a pain getting to the office all the way from Maida Vale."

The Government is trying to present a double-faced approach that is designed to unite social feeling with hard industry action. In theory, propelled by the general mercy and kindness of the nation at large various employment sectors will offer people work experience, while the New Deal will be modified in order to admit new recruits more swiftly.

Blair and Brown seem to expect homeless people, elated by the patronage of those who used to walk straight past them in the street, to leap up, dust themselves off and sprint in their droves to make a start on the potentially happy and fulfilling lives only New Labour could ever have made them aware of. But there is a huge

gap between selling *The Big Issue* for a pittance, and feeling strong enough to put your life together in any permanent way.

Being homeless is not the result of running out of rent or being between flats, but, in most cases, the result of traumatic yet inescapable events. Many homeless people have indeed had houses, jobs and families in the past. They do not need to be taught how to gain employment or mix with the educated classes. What is required, as Blair well knows, is for money to be invested in more shelters, and dedicated counselling aimed at restoring people's sense of personal potential.

Of course, advice about re-entering employment is useful enough, but it is not the most pressing concern. Much as the men at the top want to convince us that good will alone will save the day, they must acknowledge that the power to resolve social problems lies in the buck, not in the consciences of an apathetic middle class who are more interested in paying lip-service than paying for Shelter.

New Labour's brashness hides its lack of self-belief



STEVE RICHARDS

It is time to recognise that governing is very different from winning an election

THE SELF-CONFESSED boasting and brashness of Derek Draper is one side of New Labour which disguises another: this is the least confident government since the war. What makes the situation more confusing is that this administration has the biggest majority since 1945. It could do what it likes but is unsure what it really wants to do, and when ministers present bold ideas, it is often too frightened to pursue them.

When I appear on television and radio I am sometimes described as the "Blairite Steve Richards", an inaccuracy which probably annoys pure Blairites as much as it does me. I do subscribe to a pro-European, pluralist agenda and support efforts to "think the unthinkable" on welfare reform and transport. This could be described as a "Blairite agenda". However, the Government, in spite of its mighty majority and deceptively strong rhetoric, is wary of identifying itself too firmly with any agenda, Blairite or otherwise.

Before May 1997, New Labour was essentially a project to win a general election. Commentators competed with each other to discover more profound insights beneath the rhetoric but were quickly swatted away.

Take the case of the "stakeholding" episode. Tony Blair made stakeholding his central theme in a speech on the economy in Singapore in 1996. Will Hutton, author of *The State We're In*, thought his moment had come. So did other stakeholder economists. The leadership panicked. "What I really meant", said Blair, "was that every one should have a 'stake' in society." He reassured David Frost that it was "a slogan" and nothing more. Soon he moved on to the Third Way, which can mean anything depending on the audience, a much safer philosophy.

The project was brilliantly successful in that the election was won on a landslide. And then what? Within days there was talk of how the campaign to win the next election had already got under way. The New Labour project has a new objective: nothing must be done to jeopardise the second victory.

That has meant two things. Those that secured the historic win in 1997 remain central in government. Alastair Campbell has more influence and power than ministers who might have more ideas on detailed policies. Peter Mandelson remains at the heart of the "project" in the Cabinet Office, rather than being lost in some peripheral activity, such as running a specific department.

Charlie Whelan, a spin doctor, and Ed Balls, a former journalist, moved in with the Chancellor, who was himself a journalist before moving into politics full time.

In opposition, these media obsessives were triumphant. They recognised that what happened in the media was all that mattered. Oppositions cannot implement policies and cannot be judged by

them. Praise in the media was everything. They have continued to work on the same assumption in government, where symbolism and securing the best coverage are often a substitute for policy.

Last June, on a housing estate in Southwark, Blair made a much-hyped speech about welfare reform. Much time and energy went into arranging the location. The speech itself was free of policy content; the Chancellor's Green Paper on the economy got rave reviews in the following day's newspapers. Therefore, the New Labour entourage concluded, it was a triumph. They did not listen to Labour backbenchers who were already raising concern about cuts in single parent benefits.

The rhetoric and symbols surrounding Britain's confused EU presidency got more priority than resolving policy ambiguities; premature memorabilia like the ridiculously early biographies of Cabinet ministers and, of course, the Millennium Dome seem to matter as much as policies that might merit permanent commemoration in years to come.

As the people who matter in government originate from the pre-election period, it is not surprising that those who were also involved then but who are now on the outside acquire importance. Draper and Co have no known views but know the key players in the government. Some have become instant journalists on the basis of contacts. In a neat and sinister symmetry, the media obsessives in the government now have their people who write for the newspapers.

It is the view of the New Labour insiders that they won because of the media and the related conversion of Middle England: nothing should be done to alienate either. This is why it is a scared government. The focus



Tony Blair makes his welfare speech in Southwark

groups, *The Sun*, the *Daily Mail*, all shape the parameters of policy much more than the Third Way or any other guiding philosophy.

Making motorists pay more to finance public transport? Help! Most people use cars to get to work, especially in Middle England. We can't do that. Giving greater responsibility to local government? Think of the damaging headlines when Labour councils put up the council tax. We must retain Tory spending controls. Single currency? Sit on the fence until *The Sun* is less hostile.

The Government needs to start defining itself more boldly, instead of hiding its caution behind strong imagery. That means taking on some of its unlikely allies at the election. So Blair should lead from the front in the single currency debate, even if it alienates *The Sun*, which will not return to the Tory camp before the election. That does not mean racing into a referendum in which the Government risks a near-fatal defeat. It does mean being more open and explicit about the advantages of joining and taking on in more detail the outdated, but pop-

ulist, constitutional objections being raised by the Conservatives.

The Government should invest much more in public transport, even if that infuriates motorists by making them pay. Above all it should be bolder in decentralising power. If local authorities want to raise the council tax, let them justify it to their voters rather than remain accountable to central government.

A desire to win a second time is admirable. Of course there are many policy initiatives which are welcome and "make a difference". Ministers are drained by the weight of papers relating to their briefs. But the Government's vulnerability to relatively trivial issues, as demonstrated yesterday by Blair's defensiveness at Prime Minister's Question Time, is partly because its wider purpose is still unclear.

In Downing Street last May, Blair declared: "We won as New Labour, we will govern as New Labour." It is time to recognise that governing is very different from winning.

The writer is political editor of the *New Statesman*.

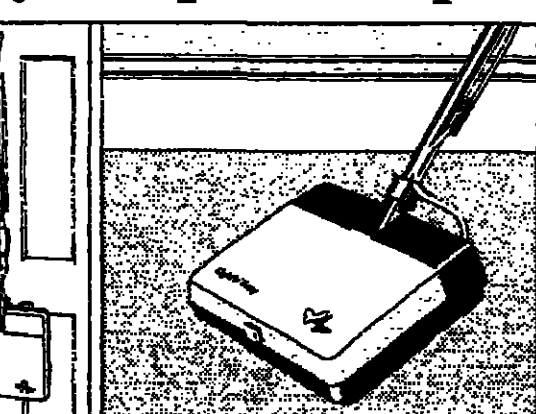
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We must keep the Lord's Day special

THE LORD'S Day has always been special for Christians. It is the day of Christ's resurrection at Easter, the fundamental event upon which Christian faith rests, a day of joy. The coming of the third millennium invites Christians to deepen their understanding of the meaning and necessity of Sunday.

In modern societies the "weekend" has developed. This weekly time of rest is good, but Christians should acknowledge that Sunday is for more than just rest and relaxation: it is a day at the heart of Christian life, a day for giving time to developing a relationship with Jesus Christ.

In the biblical story of creation, God rested on the seventh day and saw the goodness of all that he had created. It is a result of this goodness that humans have been able to advance culturally, scientifically and technologically. God set the seventh day apart from the other days. He blessed the seventh day (the Sabbath) and made it particularly holy, decreeing observance of it in the Ten Commandments. For humans it is a time for recalling

that all time and space belongs to God and for focusing on a personal relationship with him.

Given its many meanings and aspects, and its link to the very foundations of the faith, the celebration of the Christian Sunday remains an indispensable element of our Christian identity.

Sunday is not only a remembrance of a past event: it is a celebration of the living presence of the Risen Lord in the midst of his own people. For this presence to be properly proclaimed, it is not enough for Christians to pray individually. As members of the Church it is important for them to assemble together, particularly at the celebration of the Eucharist (the Mass), which is at the heart of the Church's life, and which literally means "thanksgiving".

At the Sunday Mass, the different groups and movements within a parish come together, and encounter God in his word (in the readings from the Bible) and in Holy Communion.

Since the Mass is at the centre of the Catholic faith, the Church obliges Catholics to attend on the Lord's Day unless there is a grave impediment.



PODIUM

POPE JOHN PAUL II

From the Pope's apostolic letter, 'Dies Domini'

(The Day of the Lord)

ment. Catholics should participate fully in the celebration according to their different roles (as priests, deacons, and laity).

Resting from work on Sunday helps humanity to recognise its dependence on God the creator, and provides the time to keep the day holy as a day of worship.

Even in our own day work is very oppressive for many people, either because of miserable working conditions and long

hours - especially in the poorer regions of the world - or because of the persistence in economically more developed societies of too many cases of injustice and exploitation of man by man.

At the same time, the right of workers to rest presupposes their right to work - in reflecting on the Christian understanding of Sunday; those who are forced to remain inactive on workdays are recalled with a "deep sense of solidarity".

Through Sunday rest, the concerns of life can be put in their proper perspective: material things can give way to spiritual values. Under less pressure, people appreciate each other and their environment better. Christians will also wish to strive to ensure that civil legislation respects their duty to keep Sunday holy. In any case, they ought to participate in the Eucharist and refrain "from work and activities which are incompatible with the sanctification of the Lord's Day".

Sunday also provides the opportunity to engage in charitable works. Inspired by the Eucharist, Christians will be

aware of those who are in need: the sick, the elderly, children or immigrants.

Why not make the Lord's Day a more intense time of sharing, encouraging all the inventiveness of which Christian charity is capable? Inviting to a meal people who are alone, visiting the sick, providing food for needy families, spending a few hours in voluntary work and acts of solidarity: these would certainly be ways of bringing into people's lives the love of Christ received at the Eucharistic table. The particular presence of Christ on Sunday should also inspire Christians to work more to change the oppressive structures present in society.

Certainly, Christians are no different from other people in enjoying the weekly day of rest: but at the same time they are keenly aware of the uniqueness and originality of Sunday, the day on which they are called to celebrate their salvation and the salvation of all humanity.

Sunday is the day of joy and the day of rest precisely because it is the Lord's Day, the day of the Risen Lord.

Chief Moshood Abiola

CHIEF MOSHOOD Abiola was the human embodiment of the profound contradictions which continue to haunt his country. Reputedly one of the richest men in Africa, who often epitomised the ostentatious culture of the Nigerian establishment, his common touch and rich oratory endeared him to millions of his impoverished countrymen. A close personal friend and business partner of the army officers who have led his country to ruin, MKO, as he was commonly known, emerged as a most unlikely champion of democracy and the most potent threat to Nigeria's military dictatorship.

His was a quintessential rags-to-riches story which began in August 1937 in the south-western city of

as one "of celebration, public and private, a culture of dance and song in such a variety it could be bewildering... a culture that had always made a virtue of taking from others what it thought useful for its continued self-expression and survival".

The traditional arts came in handy for the young Abiola as he earned money to pay for his education by singing and drumming. After attending Baptist Boys High School, he won a scholarship to study accountancy at Glasgow University. Upon returning to Nigeria, he took a position as chief accountant with Pfizer of Nigeria before moving on to the US transnational International Telegraph and Telephone, where he became a regional vice-president for Africa and the Middle East and chief executive of ITT Nigeria.

He started to build his fortune in the mid-1970s when he negotiated a billion-dollar contract with the military government of the day to install a telephone system in Lagos. The exchange was renowned for its grave deficiencies, and for many, Abiola symbolised the civilian elite's complicity with military rule. It was with Abiola in mind that Fela Kuti composed the popular hit, "ITT - International Thief Thief". His ties with the military were never an embarrassment, however, and he often explained them with a proverb: "To kiss somebody, you have to get near them; to bite them you have to get near them too".

Over the years, the combination of business acumen and close friendships with military strongmen, particularly the rising star Ibrahim Babangida, helped him build the Concord empire which included the national airline, a publishing house, a shipping line, and an oil company. Muslim, flamboyant and a patron generous with his riches, MKO became a household name with over 150 traditional chieftaincy titles and a nationwide network of support. A polygamist, he had at least four wives and an unknown number of children.

Ironically, his first major foray into politics, a failed bid for the presidential nomination of the mainly northern National Party of Nigeria which ruled from 1979 to 1983, earned him the reputation as a traitor to his southern Yoruba people. His second, as the presidential candidate for the more southern ori-



'MKO': Abiola won the Nigerian elections in 1993, but his rival General Abacha annulled them

Enrique Shore / Reuters

ented Social Democratic Party in June 1993, saw him emerge as the first candidate to bridge the ethnic, religious and regional divides which have marred Nigeria's history since its formation as British colony at the turn of the century.

Armed with his ample financial war chest, Abiola launched an American-style presidential campaign which literally overwhelmed his sole opponent, the obscure businessman Bashir Tafa. The vote on 12 June 1993 was described by Nigerian and international observers as the freest and fairest ever in the country's history.

In the topsy-turvy nature of Nigerian politics, the poor and working people of Nigeria enthusiastically supported Chief Abiola precisely because he was so wealthy. Unkayo Sukuwa, a car-hire businessman, explained it this way. "He is a very rich man, and I think he got rich from the military. Now we are not really interested how he got the money. We have the belief that the man is so rich that what he needs to do is to help the poor masses." In Nigeria, logic dictated that you voted for the rich because their wealth was so great

they would not need to steal from government coffers and perhaps, just maybe, some crumbs would fall the people's way.

Abiola won the election easily, capturing even the northern city of Kano, home of his opponent. But his old friend General Ibrahim Babangida, who had come to power in a military coup in 1983, betrayed him by annulling the election for reasons that were never properly explained. General Babangida himself was forced out of office in August 1993, leaving government in the hands of Ernest Shonekan, but his administration was ousted in a palace coup in November by the Defence Minister, General Sani Abacha.

It is often said that Abiola supported the Abacha coup in the belief that he would be installed as the duly elected president, but the general had other ideas. He outfoxed Abiola by bringing into government pro-democracy campaigners, including Abiola's running mate, Baba Gana Kingibe. Abiola was left out in the cold, and, to the chagrin of his supporters, he left the country to consult his doctor. "When the music changes, the dancer must step to a

different tune," he said a day before his departure in November 1993. He spent much of the next six months in Europe and the United States in search of international support.

In a dramatic change of heart, Abiola returned to Nigeria in 1994 and in June declared himself president, saying "Let the heavens fall." What fell was the strong arm of the military. General Abacha's Provisional Ruling Council arrested Abiola on charges of treason and kept him in detention from which he would never emerge alive. Over the years in captivity in Abuja, his health was failing and he was permitted only infrequent visits by his doctor. His business empire suffered badly, and in June 1996, Chief Abiola's senior wife, Kudirat, was gunned down in Lagos by unknown assailants widely suspected to have been dispatched by General Abacha.

Throughout, he remained a symbol of the popular desire for an elected government, especially among his fellow Yorubas in the south-western part of the country. The sudden death by heart attack of his arch enemy, General Abacha, on 8 June, gave new hope to his supporters that he would soon be free.

His release had been all but cleared by the new military ruler, General Abdulsalam Abubakar, and he was allowed to meet with the United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, who announced, to the anger of Nigeria's pro-democracy movement, that Abiola had renounced his presidential mandate. It was during a subsequent meeting with the US Under-Secretary of State Thomas Pickering that he followed his tormentor to the grave as a victim of a heart attack.

Chief Abiola leaves Nigeria at a crossroads, with a military regime confused about how to proceed with its stated desire to quit politics and the pro-democracy movement without an obvious leader.

Karl Maier

Moshood Kashimawoo Olanwole Abiola, accountant and politician; born Abeokuta, Nigeria 24 August 1937; married 1960 Simbiat Shogga, 1973 Kudirat Adeyemi (died 1996); 1974 Adebisi Oshin, 1981 Doyinsola Aboaba (four sons, six daughters); died Abuja, Nigeria 7 July 1998.

Judge John Edward Jones

THE LIFE of John Edward Jones was, from the beginning, an extraordinary story.

His parents had come to Liverpool from Wales in search of work and Welsh was the language of the home. A few months before his final exams at Liverpool Institute High School, his father lost his job, during the Twenties slump. His younger brother had to be educated, so he had to forego the chance of a scholarship to Cambridge University.

Leaving school, he went to work at the British Engine Insurance Company in Manchester, where he stayed for 12 years. But in his spare time the determination that was part of his character spurred him on to study on his own, and he gained qualifications, including a Bachelor of Commerce degree in 1942.

He enjoyed the legal subjects he stumbled upon and went on to obtain a law degree. Then he decided to change course and to qualify as a barrister. His remaining dinners at Gray's Inn Road in November 1945 were taken during his honeymoon.

He entered in Liverpool the chambers of Glyn Blackledge KC and became the only pupil of the legendary Rose Heilbron. In one of his early cases, in 1948, which attracted national publicity, he was a member of the chambers team for the prosecution of George Kelly for the "Cameo Cinema murder". The building was very familiar to Jones as it was formerly a Welsh chapel which he had attended with his family. With Rose Heilbron, he later defended successfully one of the seven burglars charged with murder in the Hanging Boy Case which took place at Edge Lane.

He became a high-profile barrister with a special interest in the disadvantaged, and in 1969 was made a county court judge, and later a circuit judge until his retirement in 1984. Jones acquired a reputation for fairness, and toughness "tempered with the milk of human kindness". On his retirement, a barrister said of him, "He never threw the case away and one always got a good, honest hearing."

But to many in Liverpool he was an ambassador for the Welsh community and one of the most prominent members in Presbyterian church circles. Elected an elder in 1947, he gave sterling service to the Presbyterian Church of Wales as a lay preacher; Moderator of Presbytery on two occasions, an expert on insurance and a regular visitor to all the hospitals of the city. There was nothing in the life of his beloved church that he was not involved in, and his history of the Welsh in Liverpool, *Anhur a Menter Cymru Lerpwl*, published in 1987, is an excellent account.

Ready to assist every worthwhile cause with generosity, Jones identified himself with the Red Cross, serving on its National Council from 1983 to 1986. He appreciated music, and was delighted in 1987 when he was invited to become President of the Liverpool Welsh Choral Union.

He never lost the common touch. To a large circle of us he was "J.E.", and to others from an earlier generation, he was John Beck. The word Beck came from Beckenham Avenue, the street near Sefton Park where he spent his youth. He died at Lourdes Hospital, only 100 yards from Beckenham Avenue.

D. Ben Rees

John Edward Jones, judge; born Liverpool 23 December 1914; called to the Bar, Gray's Inn 1945; ordained deacon 1947; Director, Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Assurance Trust 1953-59; Deputy Chairman, Lancashire Quarter Sessions 1966-69; circuit judge 1969-84; Vice-President, Liverpool Welsh Choral Union 1973-87; President 1987-98; Gorsedd of Bards (as Iwan Moesgrug) 1987; married 1945 Kathy Edwards (one son, one daughter); died Liverpool 28 June 1998.

Professor Frederick Rimmer

THE RENAISSANCE of Scottish contemporary music owes much to the vision of Frederick Rimmer. In 1955 he established the series of annual McEwen Commissions, funded in fulfilment of Sir John Blackwood McEwen's bequest to Glasgow University "to procure and promote the performance of chamber music works by composers of Scottish race and descent".

Rimmer's interest and commitment to contemporary music extended to giving students the opportunity to work with composers. With this in mind he created the Cramb Fellowship in Composition in 1966, the holders of which were Hugh Wood, Martin Dalby, George Newson, Thomas Wilson, Judith Weir and Lyle Cresswell.

With the late Sir Alexander Gibson and Robert Ponsonby of the Scottish National Orchestra he founded Musica Nova, the triennial contemporary music festival which concentrated on the works of living composers. At the first festival in 1971, newly commissioned works by

five composers (Luciano Berio, Thea Musgrave, Iain Hamilton, Douglas Young and Thomas Wilson) were rehearsed, discussed by the composers in open forum and premiered. This festival set the precedent not only for future Musica Nova Festivals bringing together composers, performers and scholars, but also for other subsequent contemporary music festivals in the UK.

In 1968 Rimmer founded the Scottish Music Archive as a centre where a complete record of Scottish composers and their music, both printed and manuscript, would be readily available. The first priority was to collect music composed from 1920. Now renamed the Scottish Music Information Centre, it houses the largest collection of works by Scottish composers in the world and while it has extended its holdings backwards in time it continues to focus on Scotland's contemporary music.

A Liverpudlian by birth, Fred Rimmer spent almost all his working life in Glasgow. During the Sec-

ond World War he commanded a rifle company in the Lancashire Fusiliers, serving in Malta, Italy and Palestine. Thereafter he devoted his life to music, graduating from Cambridge, where he was Organ Scholar of Selwyn College (MA), and Durham (BMus).

He came to Glasgow in 1951 on his appointment as Cramb Lecturer in Music at Glasgow University. In 1956 he was promoted to a Senior Lectureship and in 1966 succeeded Professor Robin Orr to the Gardiner Chair of Music, where he remained until his retirement in 1980.

From 1954 to 1966 he was University Organist and Choirmaster. A Fellow of the Royal College of Organists, he was a dedicated exponent of new and recent works for the instrument, which he performed with dash and brio. He was also skilled at playing earlier music with an intuitive sense of style at a time when "authentic" performance practice was in its infancy.

During this time he revitalised the chapel choir with the creation of organ and choral scholarships. For-

mer choristers, many of whom followed careers in professions other than music, still speak warmly of the excitement of singing under his direction. He was also very involved with the University Choral Society and had a remarkable gift for tackling the most demanding scores, including world premieres, yet always managing to coax the best out of his singers with a deft balance of firmness and good humour.

As a teacher Rimmer was inspirational. A disciplinarian, he expected total commitment from his students. Yet there was a very human side to him, which students may not always have seen initially, but which they came to appreciate as they proceeded through their course. No one was able to get students through the arcane mysteries of counterpoint and harmony as he could.

In the early 1970s he persuaded the university to make a substantial investment in electronic musical equipment and to build an Electronic Music Studio (the first in Scotland and the second in the UK). Al-

though a composer, he rarely played with it himself, but the acquisition sparked off a train of futuristic composition and research that has kept Glasgow University in the forefront of international developments in computer music technology.

In all his career Fred Rimmer was supported by his loving wife, Joan, who could always be relied on to unruffle any feathers and to calm him down in moments of excitement when performing or conducting. In 1994 the Rimmers travelled north from their home in Grantchester for a weekend of music in celebration of Fred's 80th birthday. The three-day programme, with performances by the University Choral Society, chapel choir, and professional musicians, was also a celebration of Scottish music, much of which was made possible because of Fred Rimmer.

Generations of students, colleagues past and present, composers, including former Cramb Fellows in Composition, gathered to participate.

Marjorie E. Rycroft



Frederick William Rimmer, composer, musician and teacher; born Liverpool 21 February 1914; Senior Lecturer in Music, Home-ron College, Cambridge 1948-51; Cramb Lecturer in Music, Glasgow University 1951-56; Organist to the University 1954-66; Senior Lecturer 1956-66; Gardiner Professor of Music 1966-80 (Emeritus); Director, Scottish Music Archive 1968-80; CBE 1980; married 1941 Joan Graham (two sons, one daughter); died Cambridge 3 July 1998.

Gladys Ambrose



'A lovely lady' - a typical Liverpudlian: Ambrose as Julia Brogan in *Brookside*

AS THE interfering grandmother to the Corkhill family in the television serial *Brookside*, Gladys Ambrose became an overnight star, but she had already been treading the boards for more than 36 years as an actress in pantomime and summer shows, a soprano in light opera and a trapeze artist and acrobat in variety.

She was born in Liverpool in 1930, one of five children. Her stage potential - most notably her singing voice - was spotted by her headmaster at infant school, who advised the girl's mother to send her for theatrical training. The family could not

afford to do this in the depressed Thirties, so Ambrose spent school holidays potato and pea-picking to pay for singing lessons.

During the Second World War, aged seven, she was evacuated to Llanwrst in North Wales and entered a local talent contest singing "Gentle Jesus" in Welsh and winning a 6d stamp. She subsequently took singing, dancing and voice projection lessons at the Madam Edith Clarke School, in Liverpool, and in 1949 made her professional debut as a chorus dancer in the revue *Joie de Vivre* at the Theatre Royal, Castleford.

Soon, she graduated to starring roles and became a favourite in pantomime as principal girl and principal boy. It was while playing the Wicked Queen in the original British stage tour of *Snow White* that she met the Dutch-born Johnny Votel, who was performing as an acrobat in a speciality act at the Wood Green Empire, London. The two married, Ambrose learned the trapeze and the pair perfected their act at an acrobatic training school in Holland.

Later, when her husband fell 16 feet during a training session, they gave up "high flying" and moved on to foot juggling and a comedy knock-about acrobatic routine, touring the

Continent and the Middle East for many years. After Votel retired in 1977, Ambrose concentrated on her singing, working in pantomime, summer seasons, cabaret, revue, musicals and variety across Britain. She formed her own company, Rose Productions, staging shows along with her daughters Janette and Wendy, who performed a singing double-act as the Votel Sisters.

In 1985, she joined the Liverpool-based television serial *Brookside* as Julia Brogan, busybody mother of Doreen Corkhill. When Doreen and, later, her husband Billy left, the character continued to appear in the fa-

mous close to keep an eye on her grandchildren, Tracy and Rod. When they disappeared, too, Julia remained, working in the local grocer's and hairdresser's and generally making her presence felt.

"Julia is a lovely lady - a typical Liverpudlian," said Ambrose on joining the programme. "She's no chicken, but she looks after herself and keeps herself smart. She's very good-hearted, the salt of the earth - as Liverpool people are."

It was the role that brought Ambrose widespread recognition, although she had previously appeared on television in many character

parts, playing both Eddie Yeats's landlady and Mrs Hindle in *Coronation Street*. Mrs Barrett in *The Brothers McGregor* and a noisy shopper in *Bread*. Her 30th anniversary in show business was celebrated in 1989 by BBC Radio Merseyside in a programme entitled *They Call Her The Lili Marlene*.

Anthony Hayward

Gladys Ambrose, actress and singer; born Liverpool 28 December 1930; married 1954 Johnny Votel (Johannes Duisemann) (two daughters); died Knowsley, Merseyside 4 July 1998.

Judge
John
Edward
Jones

The Rev Michael Vasey

FOR OVER 20 years Michael Vasey was tutor at St John's College, Durham. Hired to teach Old Testament, more by accident than design he soon moved into liturgy. Thereafter he inspired generations of students with a love of the liturgical tradition and the imperative to craft that heritage afresh, so that it might engage Christians in worship that nurtures their faith and fires their zeal for mission.

From 1986 he served tirelessly on the Liturgical Commission. To the work of liturgical reform he brought rigour: attention to detail, and a refusal to accept second best, whether from his own pen or that of his colleagues. Many worshippers in the Church of England will not notice the passing of this backroom boy, but Vasey leaves them a rich legacy of clear rites, strong prayers, and lucid commentary.

Vasey experienced evangelical conversion during his time at Shrewsbury School, and, after reading Chemistry at Balliol, he went to Wycliffe Hall for theological studies in the classical evangelical style. He was ordained priest in 1972, and after an initial curacy was appointed tutor at St John's College, Durham, in 1975, a post he held until his death.

Almost singlehandedly he produced a new vision of initiation: *On the Way* (1995) brought together the various liturgical contexts in which people become members of the Church. A book of services and prayers to accompany people on their journey to baptism, *Rites on the Way* (forthcoming), will be his parting gift.

Vasey's intellectual grip of the tradition of Christian worship and his instinctual feel for the power of rite bore much fruit. I believe it enabled him to nurture new levels of liturgical awareness among evangelical Anglicans and to win respect among the wider Church.

It also made him a fervent and hard-working ecumenist. He served as a member of the ecumenical Joint Liturgical Group of Great Britain, and was a dedicated supporter of the Society for Liturgical Study and the International Societas Liturgica. For the last several years he served also as the Church of England's observer on the Roman Catholic Liturgical Commission. The creation of the ecumenical Institute for Liturgy and Mission at Sarum College, Salisbury, owes much to Vasey's vision and dogged determination.

As a Roman Catholic liturgist, I was

privileged to collaborate with Michael Vasey in a number of contexts. Teaching jointly with him was so much fun; marking student scripts with him a real pain; and, if ever he believed a student's mark to be unjust, examiners' meetings became torture.

Being his friend could be hard work. Time spent relaxing in his company was always an achievement of planning and the result of much juggling, but invariably uplifting and heartening. Yet I did not find him an easy person to be close to; he was deeply private.

Perhaps this was an aspect of the sense of isolation that marked his whole life. His mother, Hannah Strauss, was a Jew. She escaped from Germany via Holland to England, but found no haven, and was moved on to Kenya; her family in Germany was exterminated. In Kenya she met Ernest Vasey, a diplomat who became Minister of Finance to the

He described negotiating liturgy through Synod as 'rather like doing embroidery with a crowd of football hooligans'

president Jomo Kenyatta, and the only white in the first independent government. There, Michael Vasey spent his early and fascinating years, and was raised as an only child. Michael carried a disability (through polio). Michael was gay. It is not surprising that he had a profound respect for difference.

His study of culture, homosexuality, and the Bible, *Strangers and Friends* (1995), was well reviewed. I know several people whose lives were lightened and whose faith was affirmed directly through his writing. Although he received letters of gratitude and many invitations to speak on the book, not all members of the Church greeted *Strangers and Friends* with open arms.

Vasey was subjected to pressure and abuse – as was the college – and though he bore the personal attacks bravely and with humour, he was saddened by it all.



Perhaps the aspect of Michael Vasey's life and ministry I find most difficult to record is his personal and generous care of individuals. If he did place limits on his charity, I never found them. Many who mourn his death do not fit into any category of liturgy, college, church, friends, or gay.

His sudden death, following a heart attack, has left a gap in the resources of the Church of England that will be difficult to fill. His was a charged and variegated life, and in every facet he gave himself to the full. A finely balanced man and supremely courteous, his intellect and wit, his biblical faith and single-hearted devotion have graced the lives of many.

Amid the clutter of his office and over the last days of his (usually stale) sherry, Vasey and I would regularly bemoan and compare the savaging of liturgical

material by the General Synod and the Roman bureaucrats. I longed to find a Catholic image to match his vivid and riotous description in the *Church Times* that negotiating liturgy through Synod was "rather like doing embroidery with a crowd of football hooligans". I never did.

Geoffrey Steel

Michael Richard Vasey, priest, biblical scholar, teacher and writer: born Nairobi, Kenya 23 January 1946; ordained deacon 1971, priest 1973; assistant curate, St Peter and St Paul, Tonbridge 1973-75; tutor, St John's College, Durham 1975-98; member, General Synod Liturgical Commission 1986-98; observer, Roman Catholic Liturgical Commission 1991-98; Secretary, Praxis 1992-98; member, General Synod 1995-98; died Newcastle 28 June 1998.

POLITICAL NOTES

GERALD MURRAY

Political realism in Northern Ireland

THE OBJECT of the Good Friday Agreement signed by the British and Irish governments on 10 April 1998 is to create stability, equality and sharing of responsibility at government level between the two communities in Northern Ireland. If fully implemented, it would be a sign that nationalists and Unionists could work together. For the first time since partition, Northern Ireland's institutions through the assistance of a North-South Ministerial Council, and a British Irish Council, would be reflective of its two communities. On close scrutiny it is clear that John Hume's Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) achieved more of its objectives from this agreement than any other Northern Ireland party.

The agreement is in essence the bones of SDLP strategy over the last 28 years. From the party's formation in August 1970, it sought to create partnership government in Northern Ireland with moderate unionists with a significant Irish dimension. The whole concept of cross-border co-operation, a council of Ireland and power-sharing between unionists and nationalists was set out in SDLP unpublished documents written in 1971.

The SDLP's vision for partnership government and the implementation of its 1971 strategy became a reality in Northern Ireland through the creation of a power-sharing executive in 1974. The partnership government between the SDLP and representatives of the Unionist community only lasted five months. Realistically, the SDLP knew back in the early Seventies that this type of interim settlement which had a significant Irish dimension, and also maintained Northern Ireland within the United Kingdom, could last indefinitely, until the majority of the people in Northern Ireland decided otherwise. In the period 1974/75, SDLP membership peaked from 3,644 to a dramatic low of 1,871 in 1976. These figures reflect the initial enthusiasm within the nationalist community for partnership government in Northern Ireland along with Unionists, and the disillusionment which set in after its downfall by militant loyalists in 1974. It paved the way for a political vacuum in Northern Ireland from the mid-Seventies onwards, and the political voice of moderation being replaced by extremism.



John Hume: partnership government

The SDLP has articulated political realism for nationalists in Northern Ireland by working consistently for political structures within the Province that address the realities of partition. This is a major departure from the traditional nationalist viewpoint of demanding British withdrawal and a 32-county unitary state. If the Irish dimension contained in the Good Friday Agreement becomes operational, the quest for Irish unity will lose a lot of its dynamic, and indeed its attractiveness. The SDLP thesis simply states that if both communities begin to work together at government level, and within institutions which exemplify the aspirations and identities of both communities, then it will be up to some future generation to negotiate further developments for Northern Ireland's political destiny.

If a generation in Northern Ireland could elapse whereby nationalists and Unionists could learn to live together on the basis of mutual respect, who knows what nationalists would want the future of the Province to be? Maybe Catholics in Northern Ireland will feel satisfied within the UK if the proposed assembly in Belfast operates effectively. Maybe borders will not matter any more in the new developing Europe. If the truth be told, there is still uncertainty over the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland. However, constitutionally, for the foreseeable future, Northern Ireland will remain part of the United Kingdom.

Gerald Murray is the author of *John Hume and the SDLP* (Irish Academic Press, £27.50)

GAZETTE

BIRTHDAYS

King Hassan II of Morocco, 69; Mr Peter Balfour, former chairman, Charterhouse plc, 77; Sir Philip Bridges, former Chief Justice of the Gambia, 76; Dame Barbara Cartland, romantic novelist, 97; Mr David Chidgey MP, 56; Mr Richard Demarco, Professor of European Cultural Studies, Kingston University, 68; Mr Tom Hanks, actor, 42; Sir Edward Heath MP, former prime minister, 82; Mr John Heath-Stubbs, poet and lecturer, 80; Mr David Hockney, painter, 61; Dame Jill Knight, former MEP, 71; Lord Osborne, a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 61; Air Marshal Sir John Sutton, 66; Sir Richard Tucker, High Court judge, 68; Mr Derek Twigg MP, 59; General Jari Wahlström, former international leader, Salvation Army, 80; Mr Michael Williams, actor, 63; Mr Richard Wilson, actor and director, 62; Dr Stephen Winkley, Headmaster, Uppingham School, 54.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Ann Radcliffe (Ann Ward), novelist, 1764; Henry Hallam, historian, 1777; Rudolf Schadow, sculptor, 1786; Elias Howe, inventor of the sewing-machine, 1819; Adolf Schreyer, painter, 1828; Wilhelm Moritz Vogel, composer and teacher, 1846; Nikola Tesla, electrician and inventor, 1856; Franz Boas, anthropologist, 1858; Ottorino Respighi, composer, 1879; Charles Bruce Bairnsfather,

cartoonist, 1888; Simon Marks, first Baron Marks of Broughton, a founder of Marks and Spencer, 1888; Ian Mikardo, former Labour MP, 1908. Deaths: Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1228; Jan van Eyck, painter, 1440; Sir William Berkeley, governor of Virginia, 1677; Philip V, King of Spain, 1746; Edmund Burke, statesman, 1797; Washington Allston, historical painter and writer, 1843; Zachary Taylor, 12th US president, 1850; Christian Friedrich, Baron von Stockmar, statesman, 1863; Alexander Keith Johnston the elder, geographer, 1871; George Frederick Samuel Robinson, first Marquess of Ripon, statesman, 1909; King Camp Gillette, safety-razor inventor and manufacturer, 1932; Sir Francis Meredith Wilfrid Meynell, book designer and typographer, 1975; Randall Thompson, composer, 1984. On this day: Henry VIII divorced Anne of Cleves, 1540; Holland was joined to France under Napoleon, 1810; the Congress of Tucuman was held, at which Argentina declared its independence from Spain, 1816; a massacre of Christians in Damascus started, 1860; the Treaty of Versailles was ratified by Germany, 1919; the Bank of England issued £20 banknotes (previous £20 notes had been withdrawn in 1945), 1970; the Bahamas became independent, 1973. Today is the Feast Day of St Everild, St Nicholas Peck and his companions, The Martyrs of Gorcum (Holland) and St Veronica de Julianis.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Alexander Sturgis, 'Journeys (ii)', Turner, Colais Pier: An English Pocket Arriving', 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Rebecca Merry, 'Pattern and Symbols in Islamic Art', 2pm. British Museum: Sheila Canby, 'Fifty Years On: an introduction', 11.30am. National Portrait Gallery: Julia Alexander, 'Mistress, Magdalen and Madonna: portraits of Barbara Villiers, Countess of Castlemaine, 1660-70', 1.10pm. Penguin Books (at Westminster Central Hall, London SW1): Diane McGuinness and Carmen McGuinness, 'Why Children Can't Read and What We Can Do About It', 6.30pm.

GEORGE CORBYN BARROW

A memorial meeting for George Corby Barrow will be held at 4pm on Monday 3 August, at Friends' Meeting House, Bull Street, Birmingham. Donations, if desired, to Quaker Peace and Service, or the Quaker Housing Trust, both at Friends' House, 173-177 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ.

RECEPTIONS

HM Government
The Duke of Edinburgh, ESU President, was the guest of honour at a reception held yesterday evening at Lan-

caster House, London SW1, on the occasion of the 80th Anniversary of the English-Speaking Union. Baroness Blackstone, Minister of State at the Department for Education and Employment, was the host.

DINNERS

Lucifer Golfing Society
The 62nd Annual Commonwealth Dinner of the Lucifer Golfing Society took place yesterday evening at the Savoy Hotel, London WC2. Lord Weatherill, President of the Society, presided. Dr A.M. Mathewson, Mr T.D. Preston and Mr P.K. Mazoudier were the speakers. Among the guests were: Mr W.F.E. Carr, Past Captain, Lucifer Golfing Society; Mr J. Hower, Captain, Wimbledon Golf Club; Mr D.J. Villet, Past Captain, Lucifer Golfing Society; Lt Col S.F. Thurmon, Support Unit, Headquarters Land Command; Mr E. St J. Brose, Past Captain, Lucifer Golfing Society; Air Marshal G.A. Robertson, Deputy Commander in Chief, Strike Command; Lord Weatherill, President, Lucifer Golfing Society; Mr E.R. Pope, Past Captain, Lucifer Golfing Society; Mr R.R. Ling, Captain, Walton Heath Golf Club; Mr R.T. Fox, Past Captain, Lucifer Golfing Society; Mr J. Miller, Captain, Commonwealth Golfing Society; Mr C.F. Sedgwick, Past Captain, Lucifer Golfing Society.

SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

Mr Vincent Calarco, Chairman and CEO of the Crompton and Knowles Corporation of America, was inaugurated as President of the Society of Chemical Industry at the SCI Annual General Meeting held yesterday at the soci-

ety's International Headquarters, London SW1. Mr Calarco and Mr Ken Minton, Immediate Past President, were the speakers. At an opening meeting of the SCI Council, Sir James Black was presented with the 1998 President's Medal. Professor Jean-Marie Lehn gave the Messel Medal Lecture live by video link from the University of Natal, Durban, South Africa.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr Richard Dales, to be ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway.
Mr Fraser Wilson, to be ambassador to Turkmenistan.
Mr Richard Stagg, to be ambassador to the Republic of Bulgaria.
Mr John Andrew Phillips, to be a circuit judge, on the Northern Circuit.
Mr Alistair Murray Babbington, Mr Stephen Thompson Alderson and Mr Stephen Rodgers, to be district judges, on the North Eastern Circuit.
Mr John Timothy Robinson, to be a district judge, on the South Eastern Circuit.
Mr Michael Anthony Hovington and Mr Mark Gosnell, to be district judges, on the Northern Circuit.
Mr Anthony Grabiner QC, to be Chairman of the Court of Governors of the London School of Economics and Political Science; Mr Bernard Asher and Mr Bryan Sanderson to be Vice-Chairmen.

Judge should have remitted application

WHERE AN applicant had failed in respect of a significant part of his application to register a trademark, the judge should not have ordered that the application be refused completely, but should instead have exercised his discretion to remit the application to the Registrar of Trade Marks to consider whether it should be allowed in an amended form. The Court of Appeal allowed in part the appeal of the applicant, Hunt-Wesson Inc, against an order of the High Court that its application to register a trademark be refused.

The applicant, an American company, wished to enter the UK market for its products under the "SWISS MISS" mark, and in January 1990 applied to register the mark in respect of chocolate-based drink mixes and milk substitutes. The Trade Mark Registry held that the mark was *prima facie* acceptable for registration, and advertised it.

Notice of opposition was lodged by the opponent, Chocossue, an association of Swiss chocolate manufacturers. The opponent objected under section 11 of the Trade Marks Act 1938 to the use of the trade mark in relation to the goods in the specification, claiming that by virtue of such use purchasers of the goods would be deceived or confused as to their origin. The opposition was rejected by the Registrar of Trade Marks, and the opponent appealed to the High Court. In November 1996 the judge remitted the application to the Trade Marks Registry with an order that it be refused. The applicant appealed.

Mary Victoria QC and Charlotte

THURSDAY LAW REPORT

9 JULY 1998

Re Hunt-Wesson Inc Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Peter Gibson, Lord Justice Schiemann and Lord Justice Mantell) 2 July 1998

May (Barnett Alexander Chert) for the applicant; Richard Miller QC (Bird & Bird) for the opponent.

Lord Justice Peter Gibson said that the judge's conclusion that the use of the mark would cause confusion as to the origin of preparations for making chocolate-based drink mixes could not be impugned, and the appeal must fail in that respect.

He had, however, left it to the applicant to apply to register the mark in relation to the milk substitutes. It had been submitted for the applicant that he should have allowed the original application to be amended, and should have confirmed the registration of the mark limited to the narrower class of goods. Counsel for the opponent had told the court that it was the practice of the Registry to require an applicant who had been unsuccessful in respect of a significant part of his application to start all over again in respect of a narrower class of goods, but counsel for the applicant had said that it was common for the Registrar to require an amendment narrowing

the specification of the goods to which the mark was to be applied. Surprisingly, there was no authority, nor any textbook statement, which touched on or threw light on the practice in circumstances such as the present.

Despite its reluctance to interfere with the exercise of discretion by a lower court, the court had come to the conclusion that the judge had erred. He had failed to take account of the fact that the opponent, whilst opposing registration of the mark without differentiating between the chocolate-based mixes, had filed no evidence against registration in respect of the milk substitutes. No other opponent had objected to registration despite the advertisement of the application.

Furthermore, the registration of the mark in respect of milk substitutes only could have been made conditional on an express undertaking or assurance by the applicant that it intended to use the mark in the United Kingdom on those products.

To require the applicant to start again nearly seven years after the application had been made would waste time and costs in the absence of any evidence of likely opposition or other sufficient reason. The court, if uneasy about the possibility of opposition to the narrower class of goods, or for any other reason, had the power to remit the application to amend to the Registrar, who could consider whether further advertisement was required. That was the right course for the court to take in the present case. Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen attends a service at Westminster Abbey to mark the installation of 10 statues of 20th-century martyrs; and, accompanied by

The Duke of Edinburgh, gives a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace; The Duke of York attends. The Prince of Wales, Patron, Leonard Cheshire International Golden Jubilee, 1998, holds a reception at St James's Palace. The Princess Royal,

President, British Horse Society, opens their Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre, at Welford, Warwickshire, and opens their new Headquarters, at Stoneleigh Deer Park, Warwickshire; and, as Patron, National Association of Victim Support Schemes,

attends the National Conference at Warwick University.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £8.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON
yumpie, yuppie n.

IF YOU look in the 1993 edition of either the *New Shorter Oxford* or *Chambers* dictionary, you will find both *yumpie* and *yuppie* listed.

Both were children of the acronym-rich Eighties and both were rushed into dictionaries before it was clear whether they would survive in the language.

Originally a *yumpie* was a young, upwardly mobile professional, while the *yuppie* was a young urban professional. *Yumpies*, however, were an early

mortality in the battle for etymological survival. Since 1993 our newspaper database registers only one use of the term. But the word *yuppie* lives on, with annual frequencies of 207, 223, 232, 229 and 221 over the past five years and 130 so far in 1998. Impressively consistent figures for a creature allegedly extinct.

The battle to save Bohemia has begun – in an East End warehouse

Artists in Shoreditch are struggling to stop developers moving in on their cut-price paradise. By Imogen O'Rourke

Last month, seeking a new location for his school of architecture, the Prince of Wales put an offer in for a trendy warehouse in Shoreditch, a post-industrial backwater between the City of London and the East End. Five years ago, one could have safely assumed that a future king of England had never set foot in Shoreditch, along with Bootle (Liverpool) and Crumple (Manchester).

The prince is the latest to join the caravanserai of businessmen drawn to the area by its aura of cool. After all, EC2 is London's Left Bank: bursting at the seams with artists, pop stars and fashion designers like Alexander McQueen; boasting The Strongroom recording studios, where bands like Spiritualized and The Prodigy hang out; the London College of Fashion and the new headquarters of the British Film Institute.

The news of his imminent arrival is greeted by the established community of "The Ditch" – a consortium of artists, designers, writers and recluses who settled the area, then a dump, 10 years ago for cheap live/work space – with equal parts of horror and hilarity. First came the journalists, followed by the filmmakers, the advertising blokes and city types – it was only a matter of time before royalty moved in. But it is clients like the Prince of Wales who are pushing rents up and driving the creatives out of what they consider to be their own backyard.

Architectural designer Andrew Waugh, 33, was recently evicted from his warehouse, which he shared with Sensation artist Gavin Turk, his girlfriend Deborah Curtis, also an artist, and the designer Abe Hamilton, by their landlord to make way for richer clients. The building which he once rented for £2.35 a square foot is now being offered to the Prince for somewhere in the region of £3.5m.

Sitting in his new studio (a strictly work/work space that could fit 10 times into the 4000 sq ft floor he once inhabited), which is done up in the Shoreditch minimalist look of bare red brickwork, colourful linoleum floor and polished chipboard surfaces, Waugh is contemplating a peculiar irony. To think that the former home of Joshua Compton, the 26-year-old art impresario who was posthumously credited with putting Shoreditch on the cool map with his Factual Nonsense warehouse parties – at which Damien Hirst served ice-cream and made the first spin painting, and Tracy Emin played duchess of the fairground attractions – could ultimately fall to the hands of The Establishment.

But Waugh is not sitting around and getting whimsical about it. He is here to talk about his plans to beat the property developers. He and a bunch of the original settlers, including editor of *The Ditch*, Gordon Faulds, Gavin Turk, Abe Hamilton, a handful of DJs, artists, writers even the odd professional, have mobilised themselves into a very ex-



Andrew Waugh (left) and Abe Hamilton, fighting the good fight for the Shoreditch intelligentsia against the creeping power of the City

Philip Meech

peditions-sounding co-op called LATCH (London Arts and Trades Co-operative Housing).

With the clout of this community quango, they have managed to persuade New Islington and Hackney Housing Association (NIHA) to support them in buying property in the area at a non-competitive price, using a clause in the local housing act which protects disused community space for "community use" in hardship cases. They are very close to clinching a deal with Hackney on a property which will make 40 live/work studios.

The idea of creating a sort of incubator unit for artisans in the inner cities is not a new one. New York's SoHo artists have been protected by the Loft Laws, which prevent non-creative types buying into warehouse space, since the Sixties. But Britain has always been slow to appreciate its own.

Waugh gets out a map of the area to illustrate the rapid spread of The City in the last two years. First it engulfed Spitalfields, then all up to Great Eastern St (an arm of the busy one-way system which has isolated Shoreditch like a traffic island all these years) and it is now creeping up into Hackney. "What worries me

is that if the creatives move out of the area it will turn into Clerkenwell (EC1) – full of residential warehouses for corporate types and with no soul."

The Ditch is looking at its scruffy best as we set off on our tour, with the redbrick loading houses glowing in the sun, couriers swooping back and forth and people sitting outside The Bricklayers Arms with a mid-day pint, enjoying the freelancing life. There used to be just the one pub in the area, a lapsed jazz club, and now there are five – all with new lunch menus. The Old Trashed, often the venue for private views, has just been bought by a trendy new space designer, Cityspace, who are converting it. Silvio's, the greasy spoon on Old Street, is now a cappuccino bar. Everywhere you look there are property boards for Stirling Acrey and City Lofts and "building work-in-progress". A half-built Holiday Inn on Old Street is the most unsightly intrusion.

"Ten years ago this was the arse-end of London. There was only one pub open: The Bull and Pump – a strip joint where men used to dress in nannies' outfits and a few musos who couldn't afford to live in Islington. Shoreditch community was

formed by the detritus if you like. It was art and design graduates like myself, looking for studio space, who were able to move in because it was cheaper to rent out those industrial buildings rather than keep them empty. The local council

'Ten years ago this was the arse-end of London. There was only one pub, a strip joint where men used to dress as nannies. Only art graduates like myself could afford to move in'

favoured live/work because we paid them council tax. It was a symbiotic relationship."

In its bohemian heyday, there were up to 150 artists living in a mile radius, including Tracy Emin and Sarah Lucas, Gary Hume and Cornelia Parker. "I used to get cash by working on the building sites and there wasn't one person there without an art degree," Waugh worked on The Glasshouse development in

Hoxton square, started by David Nicholson, an enterprising Royal College sculpture graduate who made a million and moved to the country. Waugh himself has not done badly out of the developments. He designed The Blue Note club, The Bean Cafe, The Cantaloupe and there are several more bars and a private club on the way. "The amazing thing is not the change – which was inevitable – but the speed with which it has happened. What took 20 years in Notting Hill and Camden has taken five here."

"I think Joshua, Abe and me all shared the same idea that the area would grow with us and it hasn't. It has moved much faster than us."

Abe Hamilton admits he is already "busting the banks" to pay his seven staff, now that his rent has tripled and, yes, he is sore. "It's because of creative people like myself that the area has become popular and now we are just being shoved on. I have clients who come from all around the world to visit Hackney (Madonna, Kate Moss and Helena Christensen among their number). It's getting more and more difficult to find a central space to work, let alone experiment, when you are a design graduate starting out."

One old timer who is not getting sentimental in the slightest about the change is estate agent James Goffe from Stirling Acrey. He has made a fortune managing all the large estates in the area and has been largely responsible for the rise in rent (from £4 to £10 per sq ft) in the last two years. He likes to think he keeps in with the neighbours by funding the occasional exhibition.

"Just because they are artists, they don't have a God-given right to the area. They should understand market forces – they who sell their paintings to the highest bidder," says Goffe. It was after all market forces which brought them there following the industrial crash of the early Eighties; just as the furniture makers who settled the area in the Sixties were pushed out eventually by the mid-Seventies' property boom. "They made the area trendy and now I have corporate people wanting to buy into that. They are victims of their own success."

Luckily for LATCH, their policies appear to be in line with Hackney Council's policy of promoting itself as the area with the greatest concentration of artists anywhere in Europe. The current buzz word in the planning department is "the creative

city" which promotes the idea of the "mixed use" community where artists and "cultural producers" are seen as key "in promoting vitality, additional employment, positive image and breaking cycles of decline in inner city areas".

"The creatives are helping the regeneration of Hackney...in expelling this feeling of lost cause and deprivation," says David Kant from NIHA. "If we can help them stay in the area we will."

What Hackney fears is the "Clerkenwellisation effect", where small industries are forced out by rising rents as any available office space gets converted into Manhattan loft-style apartments and the area loses its existing economic infrastructure, as has happened up the road in EC1.

New bars, restaurants and supermarkets are the immediate benefits, but Clerkenwell now has no protection against boom and bust cycles. Islington has recently changed its policy of encouraging residential conversions in the area after a recent survey revealed that small businesses were dropping out.

It is too late to stop the "Clerkenwellisation" of Shoreditch. The disappearance of The Blue Note club is a case in point – closed down under the weight of noise complaints from Hoxton's new residents. A motto scrawled on the wall in marker pen from the wrap party says it all: "May Shoreditch return to the primordial scum it was three years ago."

New bars crop up every week and restaurants serving wind-dried tuna will follow. The Groucho Club is even rumoured to be interested in buying the Blue Note property (if they are not gazzumped by Jarvis Cocker who is also said to be interested).

Waugh admits: "The scene is definitely over round here. It would be a bit sad to pretend it wasn't really." Hardly any of the original artists still live in the area. Gavin Turk has just moved out to The Barbican with his partner Deborah, who has found, "The quality of life is better when you are bringing up two kids...and you don't have people dropping round constantly." LATCH's proposal to build a crèche in the new building says it all: the Brits have put their wild days behind them. The best thing the LATCH lot can hope for is to make the co-operative profitable and then use it as a blueprint for similar schemes around London and artistic oases in the suburbs of Liverpool and Manchester. "If we are successful we will be setting up a model which other artistic communities can follow," says Waugh stoically.

In the meantime, all the bobos of EC2 can do is sit back and enjoy what long-term local resident and author Philip Hoare calls "Hoxton's Revenge". "You see, all these people pay £500,000 for their new loft, only to find they have to shop at Kwiksave and Poundstretcher. Ha, ha...when The Groucho move in, they will find that all the sympathetic artistic types they hoped would join have been replaced – by an angry residents association."

How could you be friends with a blackmailer?

RECENTLY a friend told me how she'd felt slighted by another friend. "I am going to write her a letter," she said, angrily, "and tell her how I feel. Will you look at it before I send it?" I not only refused, but I implored her not to send the letter. Letters are dangerous bombs. We write letters because we want them to be kept. Love-letters are wonderful because they're statements of love set in stone. Angry letters are also set in stone, to be mullied over, each re-reading causing more pain and resentment.

My father was once caught between two warring friends, A and B. Friend A came to him and said he had received an unpleasant letter from B and could my father help compose a letter back. My father, who was good at letters, complied. He was then contacted by friend B. "I've got into this terrible correspondence with A," he said. "You're so good at writing letters, could you help me write a letter back?" My father complied again. A week later, A rang asking for his help, having received another letter composed by my father. "What should I do?" he asked. "Frankly," said my father, suddenly realising the pointlessness of this crazy correspondence, "I would put it in the bin."

In the past letters were the only means of communication. But in these days of the Internet, e-mail and the telephone, letters are in-

creasingly business documents of some kind, and Gaynor is organising her friendship as if it is a business involving contracts which have been broken. Or worse, like some kind of game: "You lose a point by breaking a confidence, so I need a point back by your apologising to me..."

But Gaynor's friend does not believe she has done anything wrong. If she were to apologise she would be lying. Gaynor has put her friend in an impossible position; it's like a tennis player hitting a serve that breaks her opponent's wrist but still expecting her to continue the game, or a bowler aiming a ball at his opponent's head to render him unconscious. That letter was a stupid move and however much her friend would like to get back on good terms with Gaynor, she finds it impossible without betraying herself. She feels, quite rightly, blackmailed. How can she be friends with a blackmailer? And even if she were to apologise, how could Gaynor be friends with someone who lies?

And friendship is not about scoring points anyway. It's about being charitable when the other makes a mistake. Gaynor's friend clearly never meant to hurt her; she was just a bit stupid and indiscreet and didn't have the wit to realise that Gaynor's chatter was a secret. It is always worth reminding even the closest friends of

those things said in confidence, even if they seem offended that you might think they didn't know. Better safe than sorry.

Yet another letter, taking back her demand, is not the answer. It would still leave the initiative up to Gaynor's friend, who at this stage, after being so hurt, would never feel like picking up the telephone. Gaynor could ring and apologise herself, but not for the original accusation, only for putting her friend in an impossible position. But best of all would be to ring and simply say: "Let's call this whole thing off, put it all behind us and be friends again. I miss you terribly."

What readers say: IF ANYTHING is to be saved of this relationship, Gaynor must take the initiative. It is not enough to say you will forgive her. You must eat humble pie. Go to her home, and when she answers the door say: "I've come to apologise." If she doesn't slam the door, suggest an evening out to see if you can patch up the friendship.

Where you go and what you do on this evening could be crucial. Don't expect a tête-à-tête to help; it would probably make things worse by putting both of you under pressure. You need some neutral experience, ideally a live show. I suggest *Show Boat* if you can get to London: if its themes of of racial

DILEMMAS



VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

This week's dilemma: Gaynor fell out with her old friend because her friend repeated something she'd said, not knowing it was confidential. Gaynor then wrote saying she'd make it up if her friend said she was sorry. But there's been silence. What should she do?

and personal reconciliation doesn't speak to both of you, nothing will.

JOHN FELLING

KEDINGTON, SUFFOLK

THE PAIR of you sound as if you're still at school, primary if not kindergarten. A seven-year-old boy's version of "Say you're sorry – I'll forgive you" would be: "Say you give in – I'll get off your chest". Each wants to establish who's top dog.

You and your friend lacked discretion equally, yourself in judging what to divulge and she in judging what to repeat. Learning discretion, discerning trust, discovering loyalty and charity of thought, are lifelong tasks. And if you don't believe me, consider how slim our newspapers would be (not to mention other media) without indiscretions at all levels.

If you really value this long friendship, write again and say you are sorry and ask her to forgive you. Take her out to lunch, or on an expedition – even a picnic. Invite her to any enjoyable event on neutral ground. But real affection – like love – has to be unconditional. Should she not respond, then leave it to time or chance. What you'll have learned is that the spoken word can never return except as a boomerang between the eyes; and the written word ditto, only more so.

ANNE S CROCKER
BATH

I THINK the sooner Gaynor starts making new friends the sooner it will be that she can begin speaking of old friends. The more friends one has the easier it will be to deal with rejections.

Gaynor speaks of her friend in the past tense and says that she herself fell out with the friend. She then asks for an apology, which has been withheld. Maybe this was not the best approach in the circumstances.

Friends do not criticise each other in a parent-to-child way, although they may give each other advice. Friends also stay together for life and help each other in time of need.

To paraphrase Proust, a friend is one who has the same illusions you have, so s/he won't hurt your feelings when s/he finds you have them too.

Gaynor can choose to make demands on her friend but she might not have to, indeed has not got to say what she wants to hear. People do not always behave as one would like them to behave. People have minds of their own. Gaynor would do well to think again about what has occurred.

Rescuing this relationship may entail being patient and a need for her to show humility.

NICHOLAS E GOUGH
SWINDON
WILTSHIRE

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia, I'm a 36-year-old gay man and I've known my friend John platonically for eighteen years. He's my age and gay but HIV positive. He is declining both physically and emotionally. I was amazed when he said he planned to sell up and move in with his parents 200 miles away in Scotland. They love him, but ignore the fact he's gay or HIV positive. To move there would not only cut him off from friends but also from new therapies available in London. Should I offer him the choice to come and live with me? I want to as we have always been very close, but have never made this kind of commitment in my life and am unsure if I could cope. What if this arrangement finished off the friendship? How would I cope with a nursing role if the situation deteriorated?

Yours sincerely, Robin

Letters are welcome, and every who has a suggestion quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interiors.

Send comments and suggestions to Virginia Ironside, Features Department, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. Fax 0171 293 2182. email dilemmas@independent.co.uk by Tuesday morning.



Roehampton Priory, where the rich and famous flee for comfort and succour when the real world becomes too much for them

DM

A safe haven for the stars

When Caroline Aherne's world crashed, she fled to the Priory to recuperate.
What does this place offer suicidal celebrities? By Virginia Ironside

They are not called loony-bins these days – or nut-houses. Not even mental hospitals. But even so, the phrase “psychiatric hospital” still conjures up a vision of padded cells and straitjackets, with patients either screaming loudly or whacked out on pills.

But not so at the Priory Hospital at Roehampton, asylum to the stars. I spent a month there suffering from depression last year; other guests (and you feel like a guest there, not a patient) have included Sinead O'Connor, the Marquess of Blandford and Emily Lloyd. More recently Ruby Wax and Paula Yates checked in, and the latest inmate has been the comedienne Caroline Aherne, aka Mrs Merton.

What first hits you about the Priory when you arrive is the look of the place. Built in 1811, next to Richmond Park, it is a huge, white, castellated building designed in Strawberry Hill Gothic, set in a wide lawn covered with trees where squirrels play and birds sing.

As you check in, you feel you are more likely to meet a National Trust volunteer than a doctor, and at the shop you can even buy postcards of the place, to send to your friends.

It's the sort of place you feel you would have to pay to get into rather than pay to get out of, and pay you do – a normal three-week stay costs around £7,000.

Unless, of course, you are one of the 20 per cent of National Health

patients who are lucky enough to get a place there.

There are 105 bedrooms, and they house all kinds of people with psychiatric illness, including alcohol and drug addiction, depression, anxiety, eating disorders, schizophrenia and obsessive compulsive disorders. It is not uncommon to sit having a quiet fag on the lawn and be surrounded by sad, stick-like young girls, all skin and bone, gossiping to each other, and ruddy-faced alcoholics, compulsively smoking – with the odd crazy wandering past to fling himself down on the grass and appear to be worshipping a rhododendron bush, or a man who sits by himself yelling:

“Fuck!” at periodic intervals.

Although we're all odd crazies there, you probably would not realise that there was much wrong with any of us if you came into the busy dining-room where all the patients mix together at separate tables chattering, mainly, about their latest treatments.

“Are you on Anafranil?” they ask, between mouthfuls of avocado pear.

“I was on Prozac till my doctor put me on to the MAOIs. Now I can't eat cheese. They gave me a Stilnoct last night and I'm still feeling a bit woozy...”

“I've been told I have to have ECT.”

“Go for it. It's marvellous. It's the

only thing that worked for me...”

Everyone is in casual clothes, and you are just as likely to sit next to a plasterer from Plaistow, or an unmarried mum from Tottenham, as someone you vaguely recognise from a television programme. There is no class distinction; we are all bound together by our naturally obsessive desire to get better.

During the day there are all kinds of activities on offer. The place is more like a posh health farm than a hospital. You can go to exercise classes, do psychodrama, flower arranging, cooking, art, aromatherapy or yoga, swim, go for walks (though most of the patients don't walk, they shuffle) or attend one of

the many simple classes on offer, which offer explanations of cognitive therapy, techniques to stop feeling anxious, and ideas on how to beat depression.

And it's not just medication that is pushed at the Priory. If it is felt to be suitable, you are offered psychotherapy or cognitive therapy as back-up to pills, or as an alternative.

But the best thing about the place is that, apart from drinking, or jumping out of windows (there are bars on them in one wing) you can do exactly what you like. You can even go home at weekends if the doctors think you are well enough, or go out to dinner in the evening with friends.

The nurses are wonderful, and never too busy to come into your room – there are television sets and telephones in every one – and hold your hand if you're going through a bad patch. In the evenings you can have visitors and even give them lunch or supper in the dining-room; or you can attend one of the many AA meetings, held in the huge Gothic chapel, with piano and Elizabethan chests, and a carved, vaulted ceiling; or you can play Scrabble or do one of the large jigsaw puzzles left lying around. Every night you are offered Horlicks or hot chocolate.

It is all a far cry from the bad old days of the Priory. When my mother was admitted for alcoholism, 30

years ago, in attendance were Dr Flood and Dr Flood (no relation). The corridors were all covered in linoleum, the walls were cream and brown, and the beds iron cots. I remember visiting her – there was not a nurse in sight; I had to find my way to her room by opening all the doors – and she suddenly rose up screaming: “I want mead! I want mead!”

Now she would be admitted to the Galsworthy Wing, specially for addicts, where patients are put through a rigorous, 12-step programme, with group therapy following the de-tox. Now the corridors are carpeted, with fresh flowers (arranged by the patients) at every corner. The walls are painted in soothing pastels, and nurses are always at their station.

I was driven to the Priory by my son. I was crying, plucking at my jumper, wishing I could die and feeling like a cat being taken to the vet, with the sensation that I was being carried off to prison. When I return now, for occasional check-ups, my heart jumps with pleasure at the sight of this stately pile.

Asylum may be an old-fashioned word to use, but that is exactly what the Priory is – a luxurious, healing shelter offered to people at a time when the outside world seems too frightening and depressing to cope with. If more psychiatric hospitals were run on the same lines, people with mental problems would get better more quickly.

But there is always a risk: they might never want to leave.

WHO GOES TO THE PRIORY?



From left: Caroline Aherne, the Marquess of Blandford, Paula Yates, Sinead O'Connor and Emily Lloyd

POETIC LICENCE

TOWARDS A MOUNTAIN BIKE MONARCHY
BY MARTIN NEWELL

The Royal train is to be hired out to “appropriate organisations” as part of a Palace economy drive, it was reported this week.

Removing specs and cleaning throat
The keeper of the Privy Purse
Held up a bulging invoice-spoke
And in a tone which verged on terse
Said, “Things have gone from bad to worse.
The items here Marm, at a glance
Will highlight the financial strain
From school fees, garden parties, gongs
Repairs to castles, food, champagne
And worst of all, the Royal train.
It's not as if you use the thing
It broke down once, it costs too much
A streamlined firm would sell it off
You want to have the common touch
Why not just cycle, like the Dutch?”
The monarch bristled visibly
Her regal lips pursed in a pout
Her husband chipped his two pence in:

“Well that's the choo-choo up the spout
Unless of course... We hire it out!
“Oh yeah?” She snarled. “And after that?
The royal yacht? Our carriages?
With you thrown in to drive the things
For girls who work in garages
To hire them for their marriages?
And while we're at it why not hire
Balmoral, Buck House and their grounds
For parties, raves and long weekends?
Then One can play some happening sounds
And charge the punters fifty pounds.
The Keeper of the Privy Purse
Said, “It's agreed then. If it please
Your Highnesses, we'll hire the train
And use the money earned from fees
To buy you mid-range A.T.B.s.”



MICHAEL HUNT

‘Norris’s role was known only to a handful of detectives’

continued from page 1

in the late Eighties, when he was seen to meet David Norris. In the inquiry it was revealed that David Norris was an informer.

By the early Nineties the criminals in Norris's South London milieu were moving into the lucrative trade in illegal drugs. The stakes and violence were growing. More and more of Norris's associates had been arrested, and that was raising suspicions. In court some defendants, in an effort to be acquitted, started suggesting that they had fallen foul of a malicious set-up by a police informer called David Norris. The die was cast.

Nemesis came seven years after Norris became an informer. He became embroiled in a large cannabis deal with some heavy criminals. The deal went wrong, and the two Mr Bigs had a score to settle.

One April Sunday evening Paul Buckley, a neighbour of the Norris family, was settling down to watch television in his South London home when he heard several loud bangs. A sharp crack much closer followed, as part of his front window tinkled on to the carpet. As Mr Buckley cautiously pulled back the curtain he heard Mrs Norris from over the road screaming as a motorbike surged away. When he opened his front door, Mr Buckley saw her bending over the corpse of her husband Dave.

David Norris had just arrived home with his wife who was pregnant, and the three children. As they got out the car, two men on a high-powered trail-bike pulled up and the passenger, his face hidden by a visor, opened fire. David Norris tried to flee, shouted “no, no” several times and fell to the ground dead.

He was not the first and will certainly

not be the last informer to die. In the early Nineties the rules were tightened again. Informers had always been part of the underworld's furniture, but tips, nods and winks exchanged over drinks in underworld pubs have been superseded by a bureaucracy of informant-handling. Inevitably, questions persist over the way the police use “grasses”.

This week's report highlighted concerns over the police use of illegal immigrants, “for the purpose of acting as informants, particularly in connection with the illegal drugs trafficking”. Scotland Yard have had serious difficulties infiltrating the Jamaican crime gangs, and employed Delroy “Epsy” Denton, 36, a Jamaican criminal with a long history of violence. He had entered Britain in 1993, using his brother's passport and was being paid £50 per week as an informant regis-

tered with the Home Office. In 1995 he raped and stabbed 18 times, Marcia Dawes, aged 24. In 1996 he was jailed for life.

The police also allowed a Jamaican gangster, Rohan Thomas, to enter Britain illegally to raise the credibility of the police informer Eaton Green, who was helping police trying to solve a series of Yardie killings.

The men carried out a robbery at gunpoint of more than 100 people at a “blues” party in Nottingham. Concern in the Afro-Caribbean community, especially from the family of Marcia Dawes, led to the setting up of a Police Working Party who wrote this week's report.

But problems will inevitably remain. Dealing with a criminal, albeit an informer, who has hidden power over his criminal associates will always be fraught

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BBC

IN

Did he really have to go?

Lord Bragg's departure from *Start the Week* is a victory for the politicians – but not for the nation's listeners. By Richard D North

THE NEWS that Lord Bragg would no longer be hosting *Start the Week*, but instead be conducting some sort of interview in another slot was pretty stale by the time it became official yesterday.

However, the months of speculation before yesterday's announcement did not pre-empt the further revelation that Lord Bragg could not be allowed a programme like *Start the Week* because it sometimes had a proximity to news issues, and thus demanded a degree of neutrality which could no longer be expected from a broadcaster who was to become a "working peer" and take the Labour whip. Blimey. Pick the bones out of that.

We are told to forget manipulation from outside. Radio Four's press people were at pains yesterday to say that this development had nothing to do with the Tory media-monitoring outfit which had apparently declared that Bragg would be a socialist too far in his old slot. Radio Four had apparently come to the same conclusion itself.

This seems rather odd. Melvyn Bragg may or may not have declared himself a New Labourite on air, but surely we all knew perfectly well that he was the defining

Hampstead leftie with impeccable liberal leanings. He is the perfect stereotype of everything which made David Starkey, Madsen Pirie, Brian Sewell and all the other counter-revolutionaries such manna to the ears.

So what? *Start the Week* has become a splendid programme, because of the prejudices and interests of Lord Bragg. A few years ago, Melvyn took his broadcasting persona and the show itself, out of a mire in which both had languished. His tone had been hectoring, dismissive and self-righteous. The change happened, I fancy, about the time the then Archbishop of York, Lord Harewood, went on *Newsnight* and gently but powerfully excoriated the media for the "culture of contempt" which had become prevalent in Britain. I hope it's not a coincidence, but Bragg seemed to renounce short temper for sweet reason.

Coincidentally or not, the subject matter for *Start the Week* became modern science. Week after week, Bragg would explore the ideas surrounding consciousness and its evolution. Oliver Sacks and Richard Gregory were regulars. *The Selfish Gene* and the purposefulness, or



'Melvyn Bragg is not predictable. His opinion basket contains quite a few ill-assorted eggs'

rather the lack of it, of evolution have become our weekly fare. The genetic provenance of altruism was a subject we would eat our egg soldiers to. True, we would also get doses of other middlebrow intellectual issues. Feminists of the brainier sort would come on and squabble and sociologists would do battle about the underclass. We had a sort of compressed issue of the old *Listener* magazine. The genius of the thing was that science was discussed in an eighteenth century way: as a matter of humane interest for any cultivated person.

What Bragg's own opinions were hardly mattered, just as they will not matter now that he is a working peer. His talent is for making ferociously intelligent people talk plainly and that comes mostly from the position – and it probably is not assumed – of not being a rocket scientist himself. He is a butler to other people's good dining.

But even if he had strong political opinions and flouted them, they would not matter. Partly because, at this level, even political argument is not easily seen as ordinary "on" or "off" message. Audiences are perfectly able to detect that Frank Field, MP, a compassionate Labour social affairs minister is in some senses more right-wing than the traditional wet Tory.

There are hangers and floggers and prison reformers in either of the two "left" and "right" parties. Alan Clark is an animal rights supporter, for God's sake. So a declared New Labour supporter might not be such a predictable animal. This would alter a little if Lord Bragg became a minister. Then he would sometimes have to exchange the honourable boldness of the opinionated man for the honourable dissembling of the ministerial colleague enjoined to collective re-

sponsibility. Even then, especially as a peer, he could almost always wriggle evade difficulty, and be understood to have to.

Besides, Melvyn Bragg is not especially predictable. His opinion basket contains quite a few ill-assorted eggs. In recent years, he has come to accept that technologically-based industries are necessary, however unpopular they might be. One morning, I was on *Start the Week*, banging on about the need for progress. Bragg looked as though he was becoming bad-tempered. I was frightened and nervous, so I said: "And then, of course, there's nuclear power, which we'll all be glad of one day...". Graciously, Bragg started to purr.

You see, Melvyn Bragg is a Cumbrian and knows people who know Sellafield, the nuclear industry's great redoubt, and he does not like the southern condescension towards these hardworking, intelli-

gent men and women who make our power for us, etc. etc.

Even if we soon learned how to predict Lord Bragg's position on differing matters, that need not at all get in the way of his conducting discussions in an illuminating and fair-minded way. It might even help, since he'd probably bend over backwards to ensure that the other side in the argument was well-represented. Surely even the partisan can discuss political issues as though they were genuine matters of intellectual curiosity.

There is at least one aspect of Lord Bragg's emolument and political involvement which should produce a wholly benign effect in a broadcaster, however political his subject matter might become. The most important problem the British polity faces is a growing dislike and distrust of the ordinary, boring processes of formal democracy. Parliament and parliamentarians

are routinely disparaged. It has become a sort of blood sport. New Labour seems to endorse some of this with its reliance on opinion polls and the paraphernalia of market research.

We could do with a wider and deeper appreciation that the Government, even this particular government, of which some of us are bound to disapprove, is nonetheless "our" government. Its failings are a disappointment, not a piece of soap opera or a game.

A Lord Bragg, increasingly involved in the process, definitely part of the establishment, proudly, but modestly, offering his tuppence worth in Parliament, could come back to any imaginable Radio Four programme an enriched broadcaster. What that some of the other arrogant poppys who present the nation's debates were similarly educated, softened, and chastened.

DAVID BENEDICT

Glimpsed shades of true magic

THEY WERE a very excitable crowd. London ballet-lovers haven't seen a three-act classic since Christmas and they were out in force at the Coliseum for the first night of the Royal Ballet's summer season: a revival of Natalia Makarova's 1989 production of *La Bayadère*.

It is customary for those in the know to clap when the stars of the evening make their first appearance but this lot were ready to applaud anything in a tutu. They got the wrong man the first time but recovered to give a warm hand to Irek Mukhammedov as he sloped on complete with spotlight and large stuffed tiger. Mukhammedov is not the dancer he was, but he's still a greater dancer actor than most hoofers will

ever be, and he eats up hokum like *La Bayadère* with a spoon.

There is a silent-movie air about the florid tale of a beautiful temple dancer whose turbaned squeeze leaves her for the Rajah's daughter. You half expect captions – "We are discovered!" or "The Brahmin swears his revenge". This can degenerate into farce (and there were rather too many giggles on Tuesday) but Mukhammedov played it to the hilt.

Unimpressed by Deborah Bull's Rajah's daughter (he wasn't alone, I'm afraid) he stared into space until her veil was whisked away, at which point his whole body seemed to swell with arousal. He paced himself with care and, as usual, saved himself for the second act solo.

DANCE

LA BAYADERE
ROYAL BALLET
LONDON COLISEUM

producing some impressive leaps and *tours en l'air*.

His first love was danced by Viana Durante. Her tiny, flexible body, her exotic looks and her neat *jetés* and pointework make her ideal. In Mukhammedov's very safe hands she moves with the ease and confidence of a little girl in daddy's arms and, between them, they raise the story from melodrama to tragedy.

The designs look very well in the gilded Victorian of Matsumoto's Col-

iseum. Yolanda Sonnabend's gilded pastel tutus add to the general gaslit air. Pier Luigi Samaritani's delicious scenery is painted in the manner of the Kirov's 1901 backdrops and the sumptuous palaces and Himalayan vistas look more than usually handsome on the wide, deep stage. The distance between stage and stalls at the Coliseum is far shorter than at Covent Garden and this is not always to their advantage.

Most of the acting was perfunctory and some of the dancing was under-rehearsed. All the energy and concentration had gone into the crucial Kingdom of the Shades scene in which one dancer after another peeps out from the back in a tip-tilted arabesque *penché* until

the stage is filled with a flock of tuts. It is a magical sequence: you feel a little thrill as each new girl appears and a quail of disappointment as the supply finally gives out.

Even the most ignorant ballet-goer knows that they're all supposed to be doing the same thing at the same time and the human eye is very good at spotting the tiniest flaw in the fractal geometry. There were very few slips from Anthony Dowell's well-drilled chorines. But although they pulled off the punishing chain of *penchées* very tidily, they need to relax more if they are to turn the steps into poetry.

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LOUISE LEVENE



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Berkoff's evening of villainy

THEATRE
SHAKESPEARE'S
VILLAINS
THEATRE ROYAL
HAYMARKET, LONDON

STEVEN BERKOFF has never been accused of understatement. His latest solo, *Shakespeare's Villains*, is even subtitled *A Masterclass in Evil*. You can buy him in book form, on audio and on video-cassette in the foyer, but for the real McCoy you must venture inside.

Only on stage do you really see what makes him tick. He is the most physical of actors. In a succession of bad-guy portraits from the usual – Iago, Richard III – to the unexpected – Hamlet, Oberon – he uses his physical prowess to whip characters out of nowhere, topped off by twists and contortions of his extraordinarily malleable face.

Dressed entirely in black and looking like a cross between Peter Brook and John McVicar, he is discovered outlined in a spotlight. He holds the silence before leaping into character as Iago. Almost instantly he is out again, explaining his theory about this



most "mediocre" of villains. Having set the scene he nips back into character.

This play is used throughout but the result is a collapsed structure. With each segment he announces what he will show us, then does it, followed by a summary of what he has just done. Even at its best, this merely deflates the atmosphere. Some of his theorising is amusing, as he cracks jokes at the expense of the characters, but unless you are a fully paid-up member of the Berkoff fan club, the peculiarly self-aggrandising tone, complete

with a calculated, blurring "who me?" response to applause, is rather wearying. There is also a whiff of misogyny. His female characters are ludicrously stereotyped. His smirking, sashaying Lady Macbeth is like the impersonation of a drag queen rather than the work of a powerful actor.

It is also tiresome to hear one of his political hne bemoaning that due to "political correctness", white actors are forced to forgo the opportunity of developing their range by playing Othello. How many black Hamlets have there been?

It is his intensely physical acting that draws people. He underlines and punctuates words; his clawing hands rein us in, or we are dismissed with the sweep of an arm. Initially highly expressive, it grows more and more mannered. He also scuppers his power by breaking up every line with a staccato rhythm, so that the sense drains away.

Bizarrely, he is at his best with caricature. His instant sketch of Polonius with stoop and beard is neat and funny, and his persuasive East End Jewish Shylock makes Ron Moody's Fagin look Roman Catholic. In both cases he invests the characterisations with such zest and vigour that his conviction wins you over.

If the rest of the characterisations were as bold and paradoxically detailed, you might come away with a greater sense of what he describes as the vast and various shades of villainy in Shakespeare.

As it is, the overriding impression is less Shakespeare, more Berkoff hitching a ride on what Elgar once termed "bleeding chunks".

DAVID BENEDICT

EXIT POLL

WHAT THE PUNTERS THOUGHT ABOUT
BERKOFF'S 'SHAKESPEARE'S VILLAINS'

Brendan Cole, 25, unemployed, New Zealand. I didn't know a lot about Steven Berkoff before I came here, but it was interesting to see a contemporary take on the villains in Shakespeare. He did it with a lot of humour. I guess some of his philosophies, particularly a lot of Freud, have been overtaken in the Nineties. But he has been around in theatre for a long time so it was a combination of traditional and modern views – with a lot of panache and a lot of flair.

Julia Leadbetter, 27, unemployed, London. It was good. I really enjoyed it. I thought it was a good way of explaining Shakespeare.

Kyoko Nakajima, 32, reporter, Japan. This is really his one-man show; he is showing off his skill. The audience loved it. He had a good balance, a really entertaining kind of play. Gerrit van Aken, 45, dramatist, Holland.

I think there was a certain amount of misinterpretation but the performance was truly amazing. It was a good piece of entertainment, technically sound, well researched, though there were some things I had noticed before myself.

Craig Donaghy, 26, sales assistant, London. "I always thought he was one of the Shakespearean actors who really understood Shakespeare. And in managing to bring all the characters together in this and by himself, was amazing."

James Dunsmore, 24, actor, Wales. I thought Berkoff really brought something personal to the performance. With the bare stage and harsh lighting at moments, there was really very little between him and the audience.

INTERVIEWS BY
JENNIFER RODGER

FILM

He didn't get his Mojo working

THE BIG PICTURE



RYAN GILBEY

MOJO (15)
DIRECTOR: JEZ BUTTERWORTH
STARRING: HANS MATHESON,
IAN HART, HAROLD PINTER
RUNNING TIME: 93 MINUTES

THERE IS a moment in *Absolute Beginners* when the director, Julien Temple, pays homage to *Rear Window* by moving the camera across the exterior of a Soho building, dipping into the vignettes unfolding in each office. In one of them, we see Lionel Blair as a salacious music impresario grooming a junior Elvis and drooling over the boy's snake hips, snarl and quiff. That detail reminds us that behind every prapric young blade in pop music history lurked pimps and puppeteers who always made a point of sampling the goods they were flogging.

The new British film *Mojo*, which Jez Butterworth has directed and adapted from his own play, reveals what we might have seen if Temple had manoeuvred his camera inside that office, down the stairwell, across the dance floor and into the dim back rooms where gangsters were bidding for the souls of adolescent boys and signing contracts in each other's blood.

Although *Mojo* has a different agenda to *Absolute Beginners*, it too is set in a mythical Fifties Soho evoked by a production designer (Hugo Luczyc-Wyhnowski) who laces grubby realism with Rocco glamour. Its characters are Jack-the-Lads dabbling in the freshly minted music industry, frustrated by its reliance on intangible emotion over business acumen.

The brilliantfied Teddy boy Sidney (Andy Serkis) is so insignificant that while he is eavesdropping on a meeting with a rival gang, the heavies file out of the room and don't even notice him tottering on a chair, ear cocked to the door. His sidekick Sweets (Martin Gwyn Jones) is a jittery boy, easily impressed; he sees the nightclub where he works decorated with sequins and gasps, "It's like Little Richard walked in and exploded!"

Their boss, the proprietor Ezra (Ricky Tomlinson), may be a blanchange of a man but he knows what is good for business. "There aren't enough schwarzes here," he whines, scrutinising the Saturday night crowd of sharp-suited lads and ditsy girls in crimpolene. When black faces start appearing in the doorway, Ezra beams like a proud father.

In fact, he is a proud father. Not to his own son, the sullen Baby (Aiden Gillen), but to the recently acquired rock'n'roll prodigy Silver Johnny (Hans Matheson), who has come to replace Baby in Ezra's affections as well as in his bed. More ambiguous are the exchanges between Baby

and Johnny, who have the tentative relationship of being two wives, one ex, one current, of the same man.

Mojo invites comparisons with *Reservoir Dogs* in its fussy dialogue and claustrophobic setting, but one advantage that the film has over the American crime genre is its fluency in the subtextual language of male camaraderie.

Butterworth is big on subconscious desires, to the extent that the relationships in the picture sometimes do not make any sense. In a reversal of convention, you can find yourself tuned into a character's deepest desires, without knowing exactly what it is that he does for a living. The intimation is that these people are petty gangsters, but they are a lesser-spotted breed who, when the time comes to defend themselves, pool all their contacts and favours and can still only come up with a gun no bigger than a pinkie finger.

This is symbolism at the expense of plausibility, and though Butterworth is never short of a symbol or two, he has difficulty animating them. The bicycle bell which Baby rings insistently like a petulant child, the big dumb hunk of marble-blue fruitcake which provides the only sustenance for the gang while they are hiding from their enemies; these embellishments have an inert, symbolic presence that snowballs into aimless reiteration. There is a mystical aura about the glittery jacket which is passed from Johnny to Baby, signifying tainted innocence, but you yearn for experience to be represented in human terms, rather than through the bottomless wealth of the props box.

Theatricality isn't generally a problem in *Mojo*. Or rather, it's a problem in unexpected ways. Butterworth's grasp of cinematic technique is very assured - slow-motion, freeze-frames, jump-cuts and

flashbacks are deployed with breezy confidence. He even nods in the direction of Sergio Leone by introducing onto the soundtrack a ringing telephone which won't be answered until a scene or two later; a trick memorably used in *Once Upon a Time in America*.

These mannerisms suggest an over-urgent lurch away from the prosenium arch, but Butterworth knows when to hold the camera still too. There are strange tableaux here, one of which, a prolonged take of a thug stripping naked before dismembering a corpse, assumes a grave beauty, particularly in light of the scene which has preceded it, where a man has agonised over a murder, repeatedly pointing a gun at his victim before shrinking away in horror. The moods of these scenes are elegantly complementary: the time and tears which go into death, followed by the serenity of its aftermath.

But the power of *Mojo* is repeatedly diminished by the chasm between physical and symbolic realities. This is epitomised by its most riveting scene, when Johnny finds himself alone on a sofa with the gangster who has poached him from Ezra - Sam Ross, played as a slab of toxic malignancy by Harold Pinter. The camera fixes on the couple for a long time, waiting for Sam to pounce on Johnny and peck the flesh from his bones. It's a beautifully written scene, very funny: "Johnny: 'I've got the soul of a black man.' Sam: 'Sorry?'," and heavy with a cargo of menacing tenderness.

And then? Then the doorbell rings. Yes, the doorbell, that old standby of the writer who needs to bring two characters together very quickly without really knowing how. And what does Sam do? He goes to answer it. Right there, on the edge of the sofa, on the verge of getting his paws on

the boy for whom he has killed and black-mailed, he rises to get the door. Couldn't his henchmen get it? No, because, in another of the screenplay's astonishing contrivances, he has told them to nip out for a few hours, a decision which is tantamount to slapping a bull's eye on his own forehead.

It's fair enough for Butterworth to complete his battle between fathers and sons by having Baby turn up to rescue Johnny from the evil "stepfather" Sam, thereby compensating for the fact that he couldn't save him, or himself, from Ezra - a spot of 1990s-style psychological closure imposed on a 1950s story. But doorbells? Stogees with the night off? Ravenous paedophiles postponing their conquests to see who has called round for tea? Only an absolute beginner would believe that a film which is all subtext and no surface could be anything other than a success in theory, and a failure in practice.



Hans Matheson as teenage rock'n'roll idol Silver Johnny in Jez Butterworth's film *Mojo*

Joss Barratt

ALSO SHOWING

Sling Blade Billy Bob Thornton (15) ■ **Mad City** Costa-Gavras (15)
■ **Touch** Paul Schrader (15) ■ **Kiss or Kill** Bill Bennett (18) ■ **Guru in Seven** Shani Grewal (18)

Billy Bob proves less is more

THE ACTOR Billy Bob Thornton undergoes a remarkable physical transformation in the new film *Sling Blade*. His squinting eyes recede beneath his brow, and his jaw juts out like a bottom drawer left open. His whole face seems to fold in on itself. When actors get the chance to play a disabled character, the result is usually a transparent display of technique and calculation, but you don't detect that in Thornton. His portrayal of Karl, a mentally disabled man released into the world after a lifetime in what he calls "the nervous hospital", is a lesson in understatement.

Thornton extends this judicious restraint to his direction and writing, and was rewarded last year with an Oscar for Best Original Screenplay. He holds the camera back, denying you any emotional dialogue with the action, but uncovering in the process those moments of stinging honesty from which other directors cut away. One devastating scene has the camera calmly observing an incident of taut domestic violence, with a boy hurling books and bottles at his mother's sadistic boyfriend as Karl sits in the foreground, blinking numbly, apparently nonplussed. The photography (by Barry Markowitz) has a parched texture, as though dust had gathered in the lens during one of Thornton's painfully long takes.

The film catches itself in a few of the obvious traps, such as idealising Karl and denying him basic human impulses; a love affair with a disabled woman, for instance, proceeds no fur-



Candid camera: Billy Bob Thornton, left, in 'Sling Blade'

ther than a gift of flowers and some coy hand-holding. But mostly you are struck by the stark, uncompromising nature of the picture, a quality exemplified in the uniformly excellent performances: Thornton, the late J.T. Walsh as a mocking fellow patient, and, especially, the country singer Dwight Yoakam as a bigot who is the only obstacle between Karl and a harmonious life. Special mention should also go to Daniel Lanois' troubling and eclectic score, which mixes twangy slide guitars with choral work, drum machines and various com-

puterised bleeps and squeaks. It gets to you, like the film.

Thornton's achievement is all the more pronounced in a week that sees two formerly inspirational directors sleepwalking through their latest projects. Costa-Gavras may never make another movie driven by the sheer visceral and intellectual force of *Z* or *State of Siege*, but his new picture *Mad City* is a crushing disappointment by any standards. Dustin Hoffman plays a weaselly TV reporter who stumbles on a hostage drama at a museum, where a disgruntled ex-employee (John Travolta) has produced a gun in the hope of getting his job back. As the crisis escalates, Hoffman steps in as PR and coaches Travolta on how to appeal to audience sympathies.

From the opening shots of a long-lens camera being assembled like a sniper's rifle, Costa-Gavras plumps only for the most despairingly reductive kind of satire. You know what you are getting: another prolonged assault on TV, as though cinema could never be guilty of the same relentless buffing of moral complexities. The early scenes are played as sizzling black comedy, and it is a pity the film does not retain this hard edge. Most detrimental is the metamorphosis of Hoffman's sidekick (Mia Kerschner), from goofy cub reporter to ruthless media bitch in a mere two days. I never realised that some women respond to extreme stress by learning to power-dress and wear lipstick. Perhaps there's a study to be done.

Paul Schrader is another fine director who appears to be treading water. His adaptation of Elmore Leonard's fruity novel *Touch* is a comedy that strikes inches clear of the funny-bone. Schrader seems uncertain of his film's tone; his comic rhythms are way off, and he goes on a wild goose chase for satire in a text that stubbornly resists it. *Touch* traces the flight path of those vultures who move in on a latter-day saint (Skeet Ulrich). He is healing the blind and bleeding from stigmata, and the promoter Christopher Walken wants a piece of the action. Only Bridget Fonda sparkles, though, when she shows Ulrich that being human can be divine. "Do you think stigmata blood can go in the wash?" she chirrups on laundry day.

Two other new films try to disguise their shallowness with quick-fire editing. *Kiss or Kill* is a pretentious Australian road-movie-cum-serial-killer-drama with intense performances from Frances O'Connor and Matt Day as a pair of scam merchants, one of whom may be a psychopath. *Guru in Seven* is a far more excruciating experience, a kind of Asian *Alfie* in which an obnoxious young chancer attempts to sleep with seven women in a week to attain guru status. I fondly imagined the plots of both films merging, so that O'Connor and Day granted his wish and made him a guru in seven. Seven pieces, that is.

All films on release from tomorrow

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The star who defined the Eighties' action hero has fallen on hard times. Will he be back? By Cameron Docherty

[illegible]

صَكَا مِنَ الْاَهْلِ

Obsession is nine tenths of the flaw

Novelist Brett Easton Ellis is trying not to care, but a new documentary is too distracting. By David Thomas

Brett Easton Ellis is literature's Mr Numb. The materially spoiled, but emotionally devastated LA brats that populated his precocious debut novel *Less Than Zero* – published in 1985 when he was still just 21 – did everything possible to dull their senses with drugs and avoid commitment of all kinds – anything to avoid the pain that connection with another human being inevitably brought in its wake. By 1991 and his third novel, *American Psycho*, that sense of alienation had developed into a form of emotional autism: the book's psychopathic anti-hero, Patrick Bateman, is a 26-year-old Wall Street trader who has an obsessive interest in and knowledge of material possessions but no concept at all of the value, or even the reality, of other people. That's why he kills them – a process described by Ellis with the same pin-sharp, pornographic detail he has earlier bestowed on accounts of, say, a Toshiba VCR.

Ellis, it has always been assumed, did not just create these people by accident. He, too, was the child of a Los Angeles divorce. He, too, lived in New York, wore expensive clothes, went to cool clubs, took too many drugs, screwed up his personal relationships. Now he is in London to promote *This Is Not An Exit* – *The Fictional World of Brett Easton Ellis* – a documentary about him that is to be shown at the ICA

this week before being broadcast on the South Bank Show on 23 August. At 34, he's grown up and gained a certain perspective. "I did have a persona and I see it cracking. The Brett Easton Ellis I presented to people was what I thought was cool, what I thought I needed to do, and I don't want to do it any more. I'm not a numb, anaesthetising person. I think I'm approachable and okay. I'm so sick of my fey, coy routine. I'm tired of being depressed. I want to be a new Brett. I'm much more happy-go-lucky."

He says all this in heavily self-mocking, ironic tones, laughing at his own absurdity as he does so. But the thing about Ellis, like a lot of clever, funny people, is that as much as he makes hilariously self-deprecating jokes about his self-obsessions, he's still completely self-obsessed. Take his reaction to *This Is Not An Exit*. "I was going to play this either way," he says, when I ask him about the film. "Either (a) I hadn't seen it, or (b) a long, windy, evasive performance, you know, 'You're asking the wrong person, I can't be objective...'"

"You mean, you think it stinks," I suggest. He grins, pauses, then adds, "I will say this. I think the makers of the documentary have my best interests at heart. They are..." he draws massive quote-marks in the air... "fans. They think they have brought the best out of Brett Easton Ellis and they are very well-intentioned. That is my statement."

Except it isn't. For the next several minutes he rambles on about how he felt under pressure from his publishers to take part, how he was flattered by the attention – "A documentary about me? Sure! Why not? Let's film it now!" – and how they made him drive around New York in a limo, which he never does, how they played "colossal tricks" with the lighting and how he hates the dramatised scenes from his books which punctuate the film, and how talking about a film about himself is practically unbearable and, oh, "Maybe I shouldn't take it so seriously. Maybe I shouldn't care. Just have a good time." And then we get to the crux of the matter. "One thing you would hope is that they'd just make me look good. But it was shocking to see myself for 80 minutes on-screen. They caught me when I was fat and effeminate."

I tell Ellis that there should be a tape of the programme waiting for me downstairs in reception. "I'll race you to that desk," he says. "There is no way you are going to



Brett Easton Ellis: 'One thing you would hope is that they'd just make me look good. But it was shocking to see myself for 80 minutes on screen' Rui Xavier

get hold of that tape. You will not leave the Hempel alive."

Luckily for us both, the tape has not been delivered. So I pick it up from the producer's house instead, and can thus reveal that, given the limitations imposed by TV budgets, the makers have done a pretty good job of translating the atmosphere of Ellis's work to the screen, too.

Deep down, he knows this to be true. "I walked out of the screening ranting and raving and the person who was with me said, 'What are you so upset about?' I said, 'I am not that person! I don't talk or act like that!' And she said, 'Oh, but you do.'"

If Ellis is paranoid, it may be because they really are out to get him. *American Psycho* was a subject of bitter controversy before it was even published. Staff at Ellis's publishers refused to work on the book, claiming that it was misogynistic, pornographic and offensive and it eventually came out to a chorus of outraged disapproval and even death threats.

To this day, Ellis says he is baffled by the fuss. Yes, the book contains stomach-churning accounts of sexual abuse and physical violence, but – he claims – it is not about violence. It is, if anything, a feminist tract: the men in it are, without exception, appalling. This much is undeniably true – Andrea Dworkin could not come up with an account of male insensitivity, aggression, paranoia and fear of women any more relentless than the one Ellis devised. In retrospect, what seems clear is *American Psycho* is one of the key works of late 20th-century fiction, not just for its content – which is a flawed, but astonishingly acute account of pre-millennial consumerist decadence – but for the fuss it caused. The media hoopla revealed the obsessions and hypocrisies of our times with unintentional clarity.

There is a wonderful moment in *This Is Not An Exit* in which a male literary critic attacks Ellis because, while the male characters in *Amer-*

ican *Psycho* are all very forceful, "the women are all very shallow." Well, that's a fine, pat-yourself-on-the-back, liberal sentiment, guaranteed to win a boy Browne points. But it's also idiotic. The book is told from the point of view of a psychopathic murderer. He is incapable of seeing women as fully-rounded human beings. That's why he cuts them up.

This, however, is not something that polite, correct society likes to consider. We know that despicable serial killers exist and that they commit acts of sickening atrocity. We are perfectly happy to get vicarious thrills from books that deal with their activities from the detective's point-of-view, once the blonde is safely dead on the bedroom floor. But when a writer lifts the lid on the mind of a killer we are all offended – as if it would be possible to have such a book without all the nasty bits. The problem is surely not Ellis's misogyny, but society's squeamishness.

The whole controversy may well be re-ignited if Oliver Stone succeeds in filming *American Psycho*, with Leonardo di Caprio in the leading role, as he plans to do. "I would never want to see an Oliver Stone movie based on a Brett Easton Ellis book," says the author. "Those are two temperaments I don't think would interact." In the meantime, he's awaiting the publication of his own new novel, *Glamorama*, a terrorist thriller set against the fashion scenes of New York, London and Paris. It has, apparently, much more of a conventional narrative than his previous work, although the extracts shown in *This Is Not An Exit* suggest Ellis has lost none of his ear for empty-headed, urban dialogue.

He is not expecting to be forgiven by the feminists who hated *American Psycho*. "There is nothing I can do to appease them or make them change their minds." Nor does he sound as though he is making much of an effort to do so.

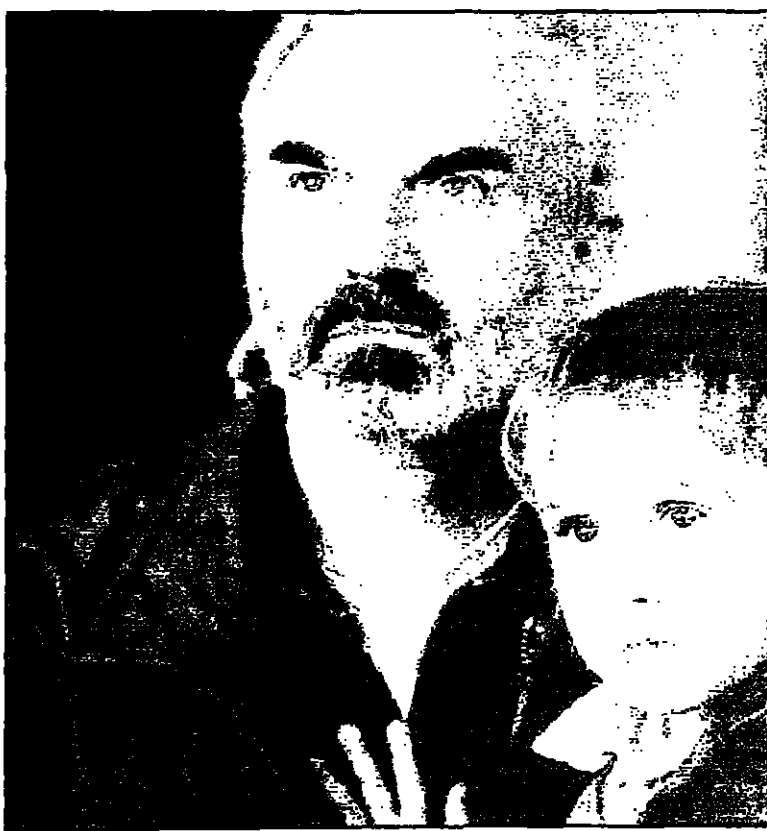
"I've worked out the way to deal with women," he says. "Just act crazy. They fall for it every time."

VIDEO WATCH

MIKE HIGGINS

Kolya (12) (available to buy now, £12.99)
You could waste a lot of time trying not to like Jan Sverak's charming drama – the schmaltzy conceit has a 55-year-old Czech musician lumbered with a cute Russian child he grows to love – but don't bother: Sverak imbues the tale with a sophistication far beyond that usually demanded by Disney, the film's distributors.

Living comfortably, if without much cash, in pre-Velvet Revolution Prague, philandering Franta (played by the director's father, Zdenek) is left the child of his Russian bride when their paper marriage dissolves with her defection to the West. Sverak's vision of life in Eighties Eastern Europe under the shadow of occupying Soviet forces carries the film alone. Franta may have been kicked out of an international touring orchestra for misjudged cheek towards the Communist authorities, but he lives in a flat that capitalist democracy would put way beyond his income and the thriving black economy obviously suits his appealingly louche bearing. It's a great relief to find that Kolya, his new stepson, is that rare film species: a genuinely attractive child. The very young Andrej Chalimon accompanies Franta to the funeral jobs to which he's been reduced and witnesses his seductions with a winning lack of affectation. The Best Foreign Language Film Oscar winner of 1997 is a real treat.



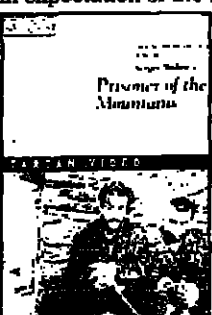
Disney without the schmaltz: Jan Sverak's charming 'Kolya'

as the main attraction: from sensitive, confused preppy in a sensitive, confused drop-out here.

However, the more he bleats about an incident three years before between his then girlfriend and his gruff father, Roy Scheider, the more you realise that Bart Freundlich's film, from his own script, is little more than TV movie fodder. The prevailing December gloom is lifted by some pleasing performances and Freundlich labours to delineate the chilly dynamics of a large, feuding family but his script fails to give its characters much depth nor us any light relief.

sergeant, and a bewildered conscript, Vania (Sergei, the director's son), are captured by Chechen guerrillas and held ransom in expectation of the return of the rebel leader's son, held by the Russians. While Bodrov's economical direction takes time out to detail rural life in the Caucasus, the plight of the two soldiers – faced with death unless an exchange can be effected – and their growing bond with their captors flesh out the film's central narrative. Bodrov unfolds the moral complexities of captive and captor, but he manages to maintain a light touch even as the film moves towards a conclusion that neither side wants.

Prisoner of the Mountains (15) (available to buy now, £15.99)
Sergei Bodrov's fine anti-war drama is the week's second video to touch on the effects of Soviet expansionism. In this case, Sacha (Oleg Menshikov), a roguish



The Myth of Fingerprints (15) (available to rent from Monday)
Not everything Julianne Moore graces turns to gold, it would seem. The actress who lent the slick *Boogie Nights* a bit of heart is the eldest of four siblings, including e.r.'s Noah Wyle, who return home for a fraught Thanksgiving. Moore's bullying gallery owner is the most eye-catching character but, among all the family bickering, it won't take you long to realise that Noah Wyle's kooky malcontent is being paraded

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RAJAN KHOSLA, DIRECTOR
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ABOUT HIS IDEAL
CINEMATIC PAIRING

LA VIE DE JÉSUS
(DIR: BRUNO DUMOND, 1996)
GUMMO
(DIR: HARMONY KORINE, 1998)

THESE TWO films could be a double bill because they are both first features from young directors. Also because of the subject, as *La Vie de Jésus* is about a small village in northern France and *Gummo* is based in a small town in Ohio. I was thinking yesterday when I was watching the Wimbledon finals with Pete Sampras and Goran Ivanisevic, that Sampras had the same centredness and

precision as *La Vie de Jésus*. And with the two films it is like watching two champs, two completely different styles dealing with the similar subject matter.

Both films use non professional actors. *Gummo* has 13- or 14-year-olds and *La Vie de Jésus* has 15- or 16-year-olds. *La Vie de Jésus* has real kids who are unemployed, down and out and so on, and encounter hatred and racism. This is observed without prejudice and restores humanity without making a judgement, the same as in *Gummo*, with the

teenagers killing cats or getting high, which shows how the predominant American culture is shaping the young mind. How the children are in the films enables you to see them as how they are shaped by our society. Both films don't make any moral judgement, which is most beautiful. It is important to me that both films are contemporary first features and give a vision of the future.

La Vie de Jésus is like seeing old French masters such as Bresson - who is more than 90 now. It is a very disciplined work, rigorous cinematically

which shows in its narrative structure and composition. Whereas *Gummo* to me is mad genius, technically intuitive in the way it uses sound and editing. And the multi-layers at which it approaches its subjects and different levels of meaning; it is chaotic; it is almost like a collage of images. *Gummo* combines all sorts of film formats and is uninhibited. It is the future. *La Vie de Jésus* has a restraint that does not see that, which has its own beauty.



INTERVIEW BY
JENNIFER RODGER

Gummo: 'Mad genius, technically intuitive, multi-layered'

Rising son's farewell to arms

Takeshi's violent humour made him an icon. But the anti-hero plans to alter his status.

By James Mottram

Few writer-directors in modern cinema truly embody the oft-used critical accolade of "cult". Takeshi Kitano does. So aloof and off-beat, yet so thought-provoking is his work, that the man acknowledged as Japan's "number one entertainer" could start a religion and no one would question him. Kitano is a ubiquitous renegade in the Japanese media, and his latest film, *Hana-Bi*, won the Golden Lion at Venice last September, exposing him to a wider audience in a continent that has adopted him as its own. The title literally translates as "fireworks", though Takeshi splits the word into two: flower (*hana*) and fire (*bi*), emphasising the duality of nature that similarly runs through the veins of his film's protagonists. Takeshi plays the lead character Nishi, another violent cop-on-the-edge in a career made from such anti-heroes, who turns to crime to fund his crippled colleague's painting hobby and a final, beach-side holiday for his terminally ill wife. An elegiac film, with moments of lyrical beauty, it is his best (and most familiar) piece since his philosophical 1993 masterpiece *Sonatine*, a film that one critic called "the Zen rock garden of his work".

Speaking in enigmatic aphorisms, Takeshi explains his film in abstract yet somehow enlightening terms. "It's like a pendulum, really, swinging from gentleness to violence and between serious and comic elements, like real life. Human beings in general are like the pendulum, swinging between both ends. It's like the potential energy theory in physics. The more extreme you go, the bigger the reaction."

His face as placid and implacable as on film, he speaks deftly: "I was very anxious the moment I made this film that it would be hard for Europeans to understand the philosophy, but it appears to me so far that the European audience understands more of this. The actions of the main character, Nishi, cannot be regarded as a total act of stupidity. It is easy for an audience to regard his life in that way. There is a certain narcotic attraction to the way he lives his life."

You could argue much the same for Takeshi. During the interview, which is conducted through a trans-

lator, his diminutive stature and shy demeanour belie the media-dominant profile he commands in Japan. Takeshi appears on television eight times a week in a mixture of game shows, nature programmes and chat shows, and his talents also extend to writing. A regular newspaper columnist and sports commentator, he has published two novels (the semi-autobiographical *Kids Return*, upon which his last film was based, and *Many Happy Returns*). His four collections of critical essays, including *What to do with Hopeless Women*, have led to accusations of xenophobia and misogyny. That this did not stop him gaining the position as men's correspondent for women's weekly *Bisho* indicates the respect afforded to him in his native land.

Takeshi has established himself over the past decade as the director modern Japanese cinema formerly lacked. Fans include such luminaries as Akira Kurosawa and that chronicler of pop culture Quentin Tarantino - symbolic of the trivial and serious nature of his work. Oscillating between extreme violence and meditative thought, his seven films - from his explosive 1989 debut *Violent Cop* onwards - deal deliberately with death and disability as commonplace. From *A Scene at the Sea* (1992), in which Takeshi plays a deaf mute dustman who teaches himself to surf, to the cyclical examinations of failed youth, his work is an examination of the tensions that strain the surface of Japanese society. "I choose the theme death to run contrary to the Japanese way of life. Japanese people persistently stick to the notion of life," he says. "Death in nature comes unexpectedly. It's a violent thing. In one moment, the family can be disintegrated, whether it's the death of a parent or a child. The Japanese family is a fragile thing. Until *Sonatine*, the characters in my film chose death as a way of escaping. In *Hana-Bi*, the character is learning to confront death, face to face. His attitude towards death is like a challenge."

Partially (albeit unconsciously) inspired by real events, *Hana-Bi* is testament to Takeshi's own ability to face the infinite. A motorcycle accident four years ago left his face half-paralysed. Undeterred, he took up painting, a discipline that finds its



Good cop, bad cop: In his latest, award-winning film Takeshi plays a police officer who turns to crime to help a colleague

way into the film via the character of the wheelchair-bound cop Horibe. Takeshi's own etchings of animals double for Horibe's, a cathartic response to dealing with his own artistic temperament.

Such parallels in his work stem from his childhood in the crime-ridden Senju suburb of Tokyo. Takeshi, who was born in 1948, had an abusive father, but his hard-working mother helped him to study engineering at Meiji University - only for him to drop out in his fourth year and squander the money on drinking, too ashamed to admit that Honda would not recruit him. He accumulated a gambling debt of £17,000 and ran away from home in 1971, sleeping rough and crashing on friends' floors. It was here that he "mentored" himself to the stand-up comic

Sensaburo Tanu, and a year later was employed as resident comedian at the Franz-zu strip-joint in Tokyo. He went on to form a double act, "The Two Beats" (the nickname has stuck ever since), and successfully secured a slot with the Japanese TV station NHK in the mid-Seventies. He spent the rest of the decade developing his unique brand of contentious, scathing and scatological humour, which poked fun at politicians and yakuza alike.

By 1980, though, upon the suggestion of *In the Realm of the Senses* director Nagisa Oshima, he took a turn towards drama, playing a psychopath in a made-for-TV movie that subsequently led to the role of the brutal Sgt Gengo Hara in Oshima's own hallucinatory Second World War POW drama, *Merry*

Christmas Mr Lawrence. Takeshi, who utters the film's title line, spent much of the shoot deliberately annoying the legendarily foul-tempered director by forgetting his lines. His only other exposure to Western audiences is best forgotten. His Japanese-language roles, meanwhile, reflected his cultivated image of part-time cultural guru, part-time thug for hire. It was the latter that won him the lead in *Violent Cop*. Consistently experiencing a tempestuous relationship with the Japanese media, Takeshi has since perpetuated, even exploited, his hard-man image. A string of TV commercial appearances, for example, includes one for toothpaste, in which he whacks a boy for choosing the wrong brand.

Admitting that he must seem

like a "workaholic", Takeshi now views film-making as his real profession: "Appearing on TV is just like going to the playground. It only proves how stupid the Japanese TV industry is; how easily they consider that things can be made. They don't respect creating things. The Japanese media say my films have never been big hits because I'm only a comedian. In the past two years, the attitude towards my films has turned upside down. The moment that they learnt that my films are popular in Europe, the way the media perceived them changed."

Influential, but rarely influenced, Takeshi will doubtless remain anti-authoritarian and provocative. His cameo appearance in the low-budget *Tokyo Eyes* bears this out. Takeshi self-mockingly plays a

yakuza not allowed his own gun, instead carrying a plastic umbrella for a weapon. Most likely it is an oblique reference to his attack, a decade before, on a magazine editor who had printed photos of him leaving a "love hotel" with a starlet - and received a battering with just such an umbrella. The incident secured Takeshi a year-long ban from TV but also assured his place as a cult icon.

Yet it is a status this Renaissance man is ready to alter once more. "In my mind, *Hana-Bi* is the end of an era, my violent film years. For the next project, I want to expel those violent film elements. It's a bit of a challenge for me, but I plan to tell a story about a child who is trying to find his real mother, that can be seen everywhere around the world." This comes as no surprise.

Bridge Christopher Sheat and Tom
FONDA WALKEN ULRICH ARNOLD

★★★★★
LIONEL

WHEN IT COMES TO
FAME AND FORTUNE,
HEAVEN KNOWS
HE'S GOT THE...

FOUR

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THE CHARTS			
US BOX OFFICE			
TITLE	SCREENS	WEEK'S TAKINGS	
1 The X-Files	2629	\$41,604,418	
2 Mulan	2888	\$37,216,746	
3 The Truman Show	2911	\$18,160,527	
4 Six Days, Seven Nights	2579	\$15,892,351	
5 A Perfect Murder	2755	\$10,852,206	
6 Can't Hardly Wait	1987	\$6,819,729	
7 Hope Floats	1876	\$5,403,822	
8 Godzilla	2337	\$4,704,162	
9 The Horse Whisperer	1852	\$4,158,886	
10 Deep Impact	1972	\$3,819,553	
GERMAN BOX OFFICE			
TITLE	SCREENS	WEEK'S TAKINGS	
1 Deep Impact	603	\$823,444	
2 Blues Brothers 2000	407	\$695,517	
3 Mercury Rising	405	\$683,947	
4 Titanic	465	\$357,621	
5 Picture Perfect	160	\$309,949	
6 Murder at 1600	127	\$288,731	
7 Comedian Harmonists	388	\$177,682	
8 The Man Who Knew Too Little	254	\$119,526	
9 Mr. Magoo	444	\$118,219	
10 Deconstructing Harry	95	\$117,941	
UK BOX OFFICE			
TITLE	SCREENS	WEEK'S TAKINGS	
1 City of Angels	294	£1,738,994	
2 The Wedding Singer	274	£1,559,433	
3 Sliding Doors	260	£593,559	
4 Deep Impact	262	£413,149	
5 The Exorcist	31	£224,898	
6 Titanic	153	£163,637	
7 The General	80	£155,639	
8 Wishmaster	137	£129,307	
9 Scream 2	133	£124,949	
10 Red Corner	111	£73,476	
AUSTRALIAN BOX OFFICE			
TITLE	SCREENS	WEEK'S TAKINGS	
1 Deep Impact	247	\$3,401,958	
2 Godzilla	295	\$1,055,437	
3 The Horse Whisperer	233	\$782,132	
4 City of Angels	155	\$325,336	
5 Kundun	21	\$272,875	
6 The Little Mermaid	111	\$230,958	
7 The Wedding Singer	143	\$226,310	
8 Anastasia	161	\$183,600	
9 Everest	3	\$127,296	
10 Wild Things	78	\$95,297	
ITALIAN BOX OFFICE			
TITLE	SCREENS	WEEK'S TAKINGS	
1 Red Corner	113	\$294,454	
2 A Clockwork Orange	66	\$139,139	
3 The Big Lebowski	42	\$115,590	
4 Deep Impact	42	\$105,378	
5 Life Is Beautiful	38	\$70,449	
6 Arizona Dream	37	\$68,606	
7 Three Men and a Leg	37	\$64,566	
8 Titanic	35	\$59,212	
9 Lost Highway	25	\$45,377	
10 Fallen	32	\$38,459	
JAPANESE BOX OFFICE			
TITLE	SCREENS	WEEK'S TAKINGS	
1 Deep Impact	19	\$1,706,026	
2 Titanic	29	\$1,696,946	
3 The Jackal	21	\$1,101,570	
4 Pride	10	\$443,772	
5 U.S. Marshals	15	\$423,670	
6 Great Expectations	15	\$365,749	
7 Major League III	18	\$247,920	
8 As Good As It Gets	14	\$226,574	
9 Kizuna	10	\$220,438	
10 Alien Resurrection	19	\$194,919	



Embeth Davidtz and Kenneth Branagh form a powerful and eye-catching combination in *The Gingerbread Man*

An identity crisis that's good for business

Embeth Davidtz's versatility has brought meaty roles. Just don't call her a star. By Anwar Brett

Locked in a plush Holland Park hotel room, busily promoting her latest film, the actress Embeth Davidtz suddenly makes an unexpected apology. "I was a terrible waitress, so if I ever served you, I'm sorry."

Fortunately, the waiting is over for the American-born, South African-raised 32-year-old, who has been busily accumulating an impressive list of credits in the seven years since she relocated to the States.

"I left South Africa with something like \$3,000 (£1,800) on me," she recalls, "and started my life all over again. I'd reached a point where I'd been nominated for my theatre work, and had done a small film there, and I felt it wasn't going to get any better."

"They were cutting back on funding for the theatre, so I packed up everything I owned and left. It was really terrifying at first. I was driving round in this beat-up old car, barely making a living, waitressing during the day and working downtown at the opera each night."

Those dark days may have seemed endless at the time, but Davidtz can look back on a remarkably quick entry into films, when she was cast as the female lead in Sam Raimi's raucous fantasy adventure *Army of Darkness*.

"That was one of the first scripts I read," she continues. "I loved making the film, though I did wonder if this was really what American film-making was about."

"It was a hoot to make, but Sam had to fight for me because the producer described me as a skinny brunette, when they wanted a

bosomy woman with flowing long hair. Sam said they could achieve that with a corset and a wig, so let's do it. And that was just three months after I'd landed in the States."

Davidtz's career has gathered pace since then, and has demonstrated a range that many more established actresses can only dream of. Theatrically trained, she credits the repertory system, and the challenges of playing a different role each night, for this talent.

But versatility, while prized among actors, only confuses some in the business who might be expected to know better. Fortunately,

'Since 'Schindler's List', every nice, delicate Jewish part that came up was sent to me'

a handful of noted film directors spotted that her talent was right for their films.

Biggest of all was *Schindler's List*, in which she played Amon Goeth's maid, Helen Hirsch. Then there was the little-seen Merchant-Ivory production *Feast of July*, then Danny De Vito's impressive *Matilda*. Now she plays in Robert Altman's jazzy version of John Grisham's tale, *The Gingerbread Man*.

"I've always been lucky in having directors who've stuck their necks out for me, and supported me in my work," she adds gratefully.

But this problem is exacerbated when confusion arises over Davidtz's nationality. Her ability

with accents is at once a help and hindrance - her normal speaking voice is in clipped South African tones - while her unusual name, taken from her grandmothers Emily and Elizabeth, only adds to the confusion.

But, in the end, it is the work she does that has brought Davidtz to a wider public, and bigger, better films. Cast by Steven Spielberg in *Schindler's List* after he had seen her in a television movie, Davidtz is not slow to recognise the importance of that film on her career.

"What *Schindler's List* did was open the door for me," she admits. "Before that, I would probably have taken any job that came my way, but it opened the door to this inner circle, and I started doing studio films and things that I wanted to do."

"But I'm still not a name. I've not been in a blockbuster. That's why Bob Altman had to fight for me to be in *The Gingerbread Man*, because they wanted so-and-so who had been Oscar-nominated, because she would bring in so much at the box office."

This need for contrasts and variety in her work is at odds with typical Hollywood career-building. Yet after playing the impossibly lovely Miss Honey in *Matilda*, the actress was delighted to be offered the role of the unstable - quite possibly lethal - Mallory Doss in *The Gingerbread Man*.

"I've been looking for something that got me away from Miss Honey for the longest time," she smiles sweetly. "Since *Schindler's List*, every nice, delicate, Jewish part that came along was sent to me."

"I did *Matilda* because I love Roald Dahl, and I'd just done *The*

Feast of July which was quite heavy, but I was really excited by the prospect of playing Mallory, because it was so different from the other things I'd done."

Elevating the pulp perspective of the usual John Grisham story, Altman brings a disorientating, noir-ish feel to the tale of an arrogantly successful attorney who finds himself embroiled in kidnapping and murder when he takes up with a vulnerable young woman.

With Kenneth Branagh playing the arrogant attorney Rick Maigruder, and Davidtz offering a twist

'You can get stuck in a rut if people lack imagination to move you to another place'

on the traditional *femme fatale* role, this is intriguing stuff to watch, and turned out to be a delight for the actress to play. "I think Bob wanted someone who wasn't an obvious *femme fatale*. But my nerves were shot all the time, because I doubted whether I was carrying it off, that people wouldn't believe me in that part."

Creating a hurricane, to add to the portentous feeling leading to the movie's climax, did not do much to calm her nerves, but it clearly paid off. "It was horrible, wet and cold," Davidtz recalls with a shudder. "All I had to do was stand there and look wretched. It made me feel miserable, but in the end it helped my performance quite a bit. I prayed that this

would put Miss Honey to the back of people's minds."

"Thank God! For the most part people liked me in it, even those who didn't like the film. They said, 'this is different from Embeth Davidtz', which is great."

"I know what I really am, but you can get stuck in a rut so easily if people don't have the imagination to move you to another place. I'm not one of those people who have absolute confidence in themselves - you're always scared when you're making something and wonder if you're getting it right - so I was really thrilled with the result."

Content to remain an actress rather than aiming to become a star, Embeth Davidtz seems less likely to suffer the pressures of fame than so many of her peers. She is as down-to-earth as they come, and admits that her first thoughts on spending a couple of days in a hotel to do interviews were that she wouldn't have to do any washing-up.

She is in a relationship with the English actor Ben Chaplin, and has even talked about living in the UK, away from the hype and hullabaloo of Hollywood.

But, above all, she is going to continue to seek out interesting, challenging roles and, however bad things get, you will not find her waiting at tables again. That much is certain.

"I certainly don't have people beating down my door to cast me in their films - but that's fine. Actors tend to have to wait longer for the right parts. If you hold out and retain your integrity, they come."

"I'm lucky because, for the most part, I've been able to do the things that I really wanted to do."

Wild at heart, wild with words

David Lynch's favourite screenwriter is also a celebrated novelist. Except in Britain. By Susan Francesc

WHEN KEVIN Williamson, editor of *Rebel Inc*, came across Barry Gifford's works last year, he was bowled over. First by what he calls Gifford's "brilliant and unique way of telling a story" and secondly by the fact that Gifford's works were not published in the United Kingdom.

When Gifford's novel, *Night People*, was published in 1988, *The Times* said: "If this was what life is really like in America, we don't really want to know about it." Whether this was representative of general opinion is arguable, but the simple fact is that Gifford's works have not been available over here.

This seems particularly odd as Gifford has more than 30 books to his credit. His works have been translated into 17 languages and are published in 17 countries. Gifford has always taken the human experience as far as he can and his works are often viewed as "weird" and

Gifford recognises that audiences want to walk away knowing what happened and why, but he chooses not to tell them. He is more interested in the process and takes us on a journey questioning ideas of reality and identity, more concerned with raising questions than giving any answers.

"I realised long ago that if forced to choose between revelation and mystery, I'd take mystery every time," he says. "Revelations solve very little, they serve only to preclude further thought, whereas mysteries continue to force speculation. The object, I concluded, is to encourage invention, not reduce possibilities."

Clifford makes a statement - even if it is one we may not understand - a statement that is hard-hitting, real and, arguably, seductive. He ultimately remains true to his own style of writing and does not compro-



Lost Highway was described as an 'elaborate hallucination that echoes perversion'

"bizarre", particularly his work with the film-maker David Lynch. When their latest film, *Lost Highway*, was released, *The New York Times* described it as "an elaborate hallucination that echoes perversion". Both this and their earlier film, *Wild at Heart*, were violent, but in the wake of films such as *Reservoir Dogs*, *Pulp Fiction* and the formidable *Trainspotting*, it is difficult to believe that anything Gifford might have to offer could offer a grittier version of life. Perhaps what Gifford offers is more complex. He provokes, misleads and confuses his audience and does not deliver the escapism they demand.

Rebel Inc welcomes this alternative voice and praises it for "showing it the way it is". Gifford uses different words to describe his work: "symbolic" or "elliptical". In his recent book, *The Phantom Father*, he tells how he lost his father at the age of 12. He subsequently spent his life in a world surrounded by adults, who did not want to reach out to him in his world but instead left him struggling to interpret theirs. Gifford became a master of the unsaid, of the unexplained. These themes and ideas are the essence of his work, the symbolism in people's actions and words, the constant struggle to attach meaning when no single meaning is given.

mise to meet mainstream expectations. His philosophy is simple: "Everything in life is temporary - except your integrity, if you can maintain it." He likens his "alternative voice" to "providing a different restaurant in a world of McDonald's and Burger Kings."

For those who like an "alternative voice", particularly *Wild at Heart* fans, the sequel, *Perdita Durango*, has been released in the States, and is due out here later in the year. The film is directed by the Spanish-American, Alex de la Iglesia. Gifford caught an early screening in San Sebastian, and says: "The film is really wild."

Gifford is still writing after 30 years, and admits that Hollywood's interest has made life sweeter - and has kept his son in school.

But he admits that he would love to have his work well received in Britain.

Rebel Inc has published 'Sinaloa Story' together with the complete *Sailor and Lula* stories. They are available from Canongate Books, 14 High Street, Edinburgh. 'The Phantom Father' is published by Harcourt Brace, 15 East 26 Street, New York, NY 10010. Other books by Barry Gifford to order from Amazon Books on <http://www.amazon.com/>

JOE SIMPSON'S *Touching the Void*, an account of the real-life mountain disaster undergone by the writer and a friend, has apparently attracted the attention of the Hollywood stalwart Tom Cruise.

Though Cruise's continued interest depends upon the quality of a forthcoming script, Gavin (The Borrowers) Scott cannot complain of a lack of decent material.

Following a successful assault on a peak in the Andes with his climbing partner Simon Yates, Simpson was left for dead when he fell off a ledge, seemingly to his death. Yates cut the rope connecting him to his partner and struggled back to base camp, only to find

Simpson there - frost-bitten and with a broken leg, but otherwise very well.

THE WALT Disney Group may regret the day that it secured the rights - via Miramax - to Kevin Smith's next film, *Dogma*, a scabrous religious satire.

Though the plot's details have only recently come to light, it has long been known that the maverick auteur is planning to give Catholicism a right metaphysical kicking.

The screenplay, which Smith wrote before *Clerks* brought him to international attention four years ago, centres on a couple of hell-

raising angels. Ben Affleck and Matt Damon, who are booted out of heaven. The feature also includes a female God (played by the singer Alanis Morissette) and a black 13th Apostle.

According to Affleck, the script also includes a scenario that you are unlikely to find in the New Testament: following a not-so-immaculate conception, Mary and Joseph raise another child whose female descendant works in an abortion clinic.

Understandably, Disney

execs are said to be getting the fear about the project.

Although Disney has yet to go on the record with any misgivings about it, and Miramax are citing their parent company's contractual obligation to release the film - as long as it does not get too restrictive a certification - *Dogma*'s content will no doubt be carefully monitored, given the trouble Miramax encountered with *Priest* in 1995.

The British film about a pair of priests struggling to keep their sexuality under wraps angered sections of the Catholic community, and culminated in a boycott of Disney products.

FRANCIS FORD Coppola has won \$20m (£12.3m) in compensatory damages from Warner Brothers for what the director believed was its role in scuppering his planned "live-action" epic based on the story of *Pinochio*. The court case turned on whether the jury believed Coppola's assertion that Warner Brothers had unfairly acquired elements of the director's screenplay when buying a similar treatment from one of Coppola's collaborators.

Coppola also claimed that his attempts to revive the project with Columbia had been hampered by Warner Brothers when they refused to agree financial terms. Warner Brothers is expected to appeal.

RUSHES

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FAST TRACK

GRADUATING TO THE WORLD OF WORK

British accountancy firms are lagging behind their US counterparts in offering staff the chance of a life outside the office. By Nicole Veash

Get the biggest perk of all: a life

Work-life balance, progressive management, employee-friendly initiatives, anti-long hours culture: all these phrases are buzzing around in the world of Human Resources.

Last month, a survey by WID, the international consultancy specialising in new work initiatives, said that most British workers make sacrifices at home for the sake of their careers. There were few gasps of surprise when the news was announced. To most, this is plain common sense.

The debate on how we work has been rumbling away for some time now. A few companies, primarily small-to-medium-sized firms, have instituted initiatives that radically alter the way their employees operate. In larger businesses, the Square Mile firms and big financial players across the country, there has been well-meaning debate but only a few timid innovations.

There is the odd flexi-time work arrangement here, and the occa-

We want our people to work in a way which is compatible with a full outside life

ional child-care facility there, but rarely are these developments company-wide initiatives.

Those firms that have made progressive steps forward, albeit tentative ones, are likely to have taken a lead from their US counterparts. The work-life balance has preoccupied American management consultants for some time now.

Big firms, such as the accountants Ernst & Young and Deloitte & Touche, are implementing practices that have the potential to reshape workaholic workplaces and which, once set in motion, could revolutionise the world of work on this side of the Atlantic.

Since the early Nineties they, along with other American blue-chip firms, have employed a task force of consultants to remodel their businesses, with the prime aim of giving treadmill employees a life beyond the workplace.

Deborah Holmes was the outsider who sculpted the developments at Ernst & Young. The head of Catalyst, a research group, she was hired by a company concerned by its inability to hold on to corporate female staff. Though male and female professionals were hired in equal numbers, only 8 per cent of the firm's partners were women.

The real issue behind this compelling drop-out rate was the com-



Deborah Holmes of accountants Ernst & Young. "People don't just want an exciting job," she says, "they want a life outside work."

Justin Sutcliffe

pany's work ethic, as Holmes explains: "There is an intense environment in our type of business. People work 50-plus hours per week and that entails constant travel for most partners and managers."

"When we first started the Catalyst study 48 per cent of women and 47 per cent of men said their workloads were 'excessive'. People said they didn't just want an exciting job, they wanted a life outside work."

Holmes, who now heads Ernst & Young's newly created "Office of Retention" in the US, introduced job sharing, flexi-work and telecommuting schemes. The prime reason for changing employment routines, is, of course, care for children or elderly relatives, but employees who

want to further their education, and those who are involved in competitive sports training, can also apply for the new work arrangements.

Crucially, those opting for these methods are not overlooked when it comes to promotion.

"The flexi-work arrangement is available to everybody, but it is not an entitlement or a right," says Holmes. Only 1,000 people, from a US employee base of 29,000, took up Ernst & Young's flexi-work offer.

"Studies show that not more than 5 per cent of any company's employees will use this type of work formula at any one time," argues Holmes, "so we think our take-up rate is not bad considering

the scheme was introduced only a few years ago." More innovatively, Ernst & Young brought in a telecommunications ban for some employees. During weekends and holidays they are advised not to check either their voice mail or their e-mail – a staggering change in an industry devoted to servicing clients' needs at all hours of the day.

Although the company's new employment practices, including mentoring and internal networking schemes, are aimed at their female employees, Holmes claims that they are having a significant knock-on effect on the attitude of their male staff towards work. "We want to make sure our people work in a way which is compatible with

a full outside life," she says. At the accountancy rivals Deloitte & Touche, the story was much the same, with the chairman, Michael Cook, also introducing measures to stop the haemorrhage of female staff. A US spokeswoman, Amy Ray, admits the change was as much a business decision as a desire to improve their employees' daily lives.

"Our clients suffered from a lack of continuity because of the high turnover of female staff and this was something we wanted to stop," she says. "There are big costs relating to turnover: it costs thousands of dollars to train an accountant, and if you lose one you incur the costs of hiring and training someone else."

"We also realised that the demographic profile of our clients was changing, and it was essential our service matched their needs."

Deloitte & Touche's flexi-work scheme and internal Council on the Advancement of Women, which meets annually with the firm's bosses to review their Women's Initiative, have helped win the company 14th place on Fortune magazine's list of "100 best companies to work for in America". But for all the plaudits received by America's best, the same companies have done little to introduce similar work changes in their UK branches. British employees still have far less attractive deals than their US counterparts.

Barry Lewskin, an American, who was formerly head of Ernst &

Young's Human Resources in Britain, says that it is because equality is enshrined in US legislation that companies have a greater external pressure in ensuring that mentoring and flexi-work schemes produce results.

"There isn't the same legal framework in the UK, which makes it easier for companies to ignore the core reasons behind the lack of corporate women in the workplace," he says. "And because this isn't addressed then all the associated issues, such as flexi-work and telecommuting, are less likely to get the backing they need to take off."

Lewskin, a passionate advocate of the new work methods, tried to harness support from the upper echelons of the UK branch of his former company, but admits that because "some partners in their fifties are less closely affected by these issues" it is hard to institute significant change. "We now have a public commitment from the executive," he says, "which is a big step forward in itself. Awareness is the first step towards change."

Lewskin believes that once com-

During weekends and holidays, employees are advised not to check e-mails

pany executives see female retention and the life/work balance as business issues, rather than solely moral or social issues, then the methods he advocates are more likely to win the day. "I would like to see mentoring and flexi-work formalised in Ernst & Young's UK office," he says, "but I wouldn't want to see something like the telecommunications ban legislated by the company. That should be left to the individual."

The other side of the coin is, as Deborah Holmes explains, that US employers are forced to be proactive in employment methods precisely because the state doesn't provide for people. "You get maternity leave paid for by the state and there is no equivalent over here. That's why there are greater welfare obligations on our companies," she says. Lewskin admits that, while his US equivalents are taking great strides forward, "we are not so advanced in this debate."

"We are moving in the right direction, although real resources are needed to do the job properly. The truth remains that while many big city institutions support and indeed advocate women's advancement, the bigger cultural change about the way we work is still a long way off. And, in Britain at least, old habits die hard."

Age: 145.

History: The company's birthplace was at the Old Cock Inn in Halifax, where it was originally christened the Halifax Permanent Benefit Building and Investment Society. For a while, it operated out of a room over a shop in the town's old market, rented for just £10 a year. It has come a long way since then: these days, it is the world's largest building society, and became a public limited company last year. It has around 900 branches in the UK and is the country's largest mortgage lender, with 2.5 million borrowers. It also looks after the savings of 15 million customers.

Address: The company has not wandered far from its roots: headquarters are still in Halifax, West Yorkshire, but there are branches everywhere. **Ambience:** Commitment and participation are key concepts: after the company's flotation, 80 per cent of staff became shareholders under an employee scheme, and there is a thriving "suggestions" scheme. The last few years have also seen a jump in the number of women in senior management: from 2.7 per cent to more than 15 per cent. There is an emphasis on charity, with a community affairs programme that has given around £9m in grants since it started, and an annual competition between teams working with local charities. Day-to-day working practices can be flexible: job shares and part-time work are

A-Z OF EMPLOYERS

HALIFAX PLC



The Halifax is the country's largest building society with assets of £131bn, so where better to invest in a career?

available, as are "career breaks". **Vital statistics:** Nearly 37,000 people are employed by Halifax in the UK. Pre-tax profits last year increased by 15 per cent to £1.64bn; the group has assets of more than £131bn and has also won several awards, including National Lender of the Decade and Best Residential Mortgage Loan Provider. **Lifestyle:** Trainees are given a

base location for their two-year training programme, but are expected to be mobile, and are sent on secondments, usually lasting a month, to various places – head office, business centres, branches or estate agencies, for example. Opportunities for voluntary and community activities are integrated into the training programme. **Easy to get into?** On the face of it, yes. Last year, Halifax took

on around 100 graduates, and this year it is looking for even more. The company wants bright, rounded people: those "who can lead a team, inspire customer loyalty, influence the direction of the business and continually progress on the basis of results, contribution and potential", says its spokeswoman. Shortlisted candidates are invited to an assessment centre. **Glimmering alumni:** Chief executive Mike Blackburn was pushed into the limelight recently when Leeds Metropolitan University gave him an honorary doctorate; Vera Duckworth received hers at the same time, and joined him to grin for the photos. **Pay:** The company will only disclose that it is performance-based, with a profit-sharing bonus.

Training: The two-year graduate programme is both structured and intensive, a blend of on-the-job experience and internal and external courses (including one run by a business school, and another by an outdoor centre). After the first two years, graduates can progress into other managerial training.

Facilities: Employees can take out any customer or colleague-induced frustrations in the squash court or gym at headquarters. There is also a staff canteen. **Who's the boss?** Dr Mike Blackburn is CEO; Jon Foulds is chairman.

RACHELLE THACKRAY

GRADUATES WILL be able to gain a better understanding of their abilities and interests and so better match them to career possibilities thanks to the *Careers Workbook* launched by SHL, a company specialising in the assessment of people and their jobs. The self-help guide is being seen as a critical aid to the understanding of strengths and weaknesses that employees need in an increasingly competitive market-place.

The median starting salary for a "standard new graduate" is expected to be £16,500 this year, up 4.3 per cent from last year's £15,825, according to the latest salaries and vacancies survey from the Association of Graduate Recruiters. The rise is in line with wage increases overall, although larger increases in the industrial sector may reflect shortages of the right sort of recruit. The main problem cited by recruiters was finding graduates who met the required standard with the range of desired skills.

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS brought a touch of brightness to the increasingly gloomy economic picture by reporting income in the second quarter of this year up 7.6 per cent to £634m. The figures from the Management Consultancies Association, which represents the country's largest consulting firms, are in contrast with those for the first quarter, where growth was just 2 per cent. Bruce Petter, recently appointed executive director of the association, said: "There remains

BULLETIN BOARD

considerable confidence in [firms'] ability to grow over the remainder of the year, particularly with service sector clients. In the long term, however, there must be some concern about an ever-weakening manufacturing base."

BRITISH COMPANIES are being encouraged by the Institute of Directors to embrace electronic commerce. The institute has published a guide in association with SAP, the computer software company, that aims to tell directors about opportunities in this field. The booklet appears just as a Mori study shows that the concept is taking off in Europe, with nearly a quarter of companies with access to the World Wide Web earning revenue via the Internet.

UP TO 500 small firms in Wales will be taking advantage of the skills of students and graduates through the government-supported "Cymru Prosper Wales" placement scheme. It is run with the help of the university colleges of Wales as a non-profit-making programme, and aims to demonstrate to small firms what graduates have to offer, as well as to give young people work experience. While student placements run for eight weeks from the end of June, those for graduates are more flexible and

last for 12 weeks. Interested students, graduates and companies should contact Rhianon Egerton, marketing officer, on 01792 295248.

COMPANIES THAT fail to appreciate the importance of staffing issues when transferring outsourcing contracts run the risk of employees refusing to go with the work and the resulting "nightmare" of not being able to run critical services by the required date, according to Ian Law, a consultant with KPMG Management Consulting. He told a conference last week that companies must realise that moving from one employer to another, or even being forced to relocate, can be "a traumatic experience for employees, and one they would rather avoid".

UK INSTITUTIONAL investors estimate an average failure rate of 40 per cent for chief executives brought in to turn around under-performing businesses, according to a study by the business regeneration unit at PricewaterhouseCoopers, the accountancy firm. The survey, which aimed to understand the pressure on new chief executives, found that most fund managers and analysts expected convincing evidence of success within 18 months. Many investors also believe chief executives should face a greater financial penalty if they fail, and that golden handshakes for those who do should be less generous. ROGER TRAPP

Now men, too, are resorting to surgery to keep their looks – and jobs. By Glenda Cooper

When a man's got to have a face-lift

It's tough being a man and it is getting tougher. In the past you held down a job by hard work, determination and talent. In our youth-obsessed age that is not enough any more, and men are turning to the "nip and tuck" so as not to lose out to younger men.

Women have endured this sort of lookist prejudice for years – a past study presented to the British Psychological Society told how women in the City were divided into "babes" and "mums" on the basis of their looks – but men have presumed to be exempt. Not any more.

Last year almost a quarter of cosmetic surgery operations in the US were carried out on men. In the early Nineties they accounted for only 14 per cent. The American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons says that its members are now performing 80 per cent more face-lifts than 1990. More common for men, though, is minor work – to remove bags under the eyes, or shore up sagging skin under the brow.

There are no national figures for the UK, says the British Association for Plastic Surgeons. But Kevin Hancock, a Bupa plastic surgeon on Merseyside, who has recently done two face-lifts on men, says: "Increasing numbers of men are coming to see me wanting a variety of things – facial cosmetic surgery, rhinoplasty, eyelid or bag work."

"I think men come for cosmetic surgery for two reasons. There are those who want to change a particular feature – such as their nose – and they can be any age. Then there are the men who are getting older and want rejuvenation. They want to look younger, maybe because they have a younger wife, but also because of the pressures of work. The men who most commonly come to see me are in their fifties, particularly if they want eye bag surgery."

Liposuction is also another popular choice, says Mr Hancock, for men who wish to restore a youthful shape to their chest or waist. "It's business pressures," agrees Jason Saks, business manager of the Farjo Health Centre, which specialises in hair transplants. "Men can have particular problems with their hair, which can fall out from their early twenties. It's not necessarily

an age thing, but in the business world, image is important. Look how few bald prime ministers or leading politicians there are now. You have to appreciate there is a lot of pressure on guys."

"There was a psychological study which showed that people associated baldness with weakness," says Dr Bessam Farjo, who specialises in hair root transplant microsurgery. "It's quite logical, as it's associated with the very young – babies – or the very old. The act of shaving prisoners' heads takes away their identity and their individuality; it is no wonder that men feel vulnerable about losing their hair." The hair transplants that Dr Farjo carries out usually take three operations to complete – at £1,750 a time. He has noticed that the number of men coming for transplants has increased in the last few years. "People know more about it; they are more aware of it because of the media and because there is much more pressure on everyone to look young."

Those men who wish to take the plunge should be warned, however. There are two professional organisations – the British Association of Plastic Surgeons and the British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons – but, says Bryan Mayou, secretary of the BAAPS: "Unfortunately, as the law stands anyone can come out of medical school and call themselves a cosmetic surgeon." An estimated 65,000 people a year undergo surgery to improve their looks but up to one in five need corrective surgery later, which places a considerable burden on the NHS.

"One of the best ways to find a reputable surgeon is through personal recommendation," says Mr Hancock. But he warns that people should not expect miracles. "I think the phrase 'realistic expectations' is the most important thing to stress. I don't have a magic wand. I can't completely change your life."

But if you feel the only way to achieve business success is to look younger, you are in exalted company, as Dr Farjo points out. "People forget that Julius Caesar went completely bald. That's why he started to wear a laurel wreath; he knew that people in positions of power need to appear young and virile. So it's nothing new."



Raad Jaboori: 'They transferred 1,100 hairs from the back of my head to the scalp' Rui Xavier

'I COULD AFFORD IT, SO WHY NOT?'

"IT'S BLOODY vain," admits Raad Jaboori. "I know it is. But at the end of the day I could afford it, so why not?"

Thirty-one-year-old Mr Jaboori has recently had a hair transplant to cover the balding patch on his crown. In January he underwent hair-root transplant microsurgery, which involves taking follicles from the back of the head and transplanting them to the bald area, and the hair is starting to grow back.

He feels that more and more men are turning to cosmetic surgery and hair transplants:

"There's a lot more pressure on men than, say, 20 years ago when a bloke was just a bloke. These days there's pressure to look good not just to attract a partner but because it's good for your work and your career. It certainly helps in my position – I'm a sales manager – when you have to go out and meet a lot of people."

The procedure was relatively straightforward.

"Well, the operation did take four hours but it's only under local anaesthetic so I just watched television all the way through it. There was no pain. I didn't feel a

thing. They transferred 1,100 hairs from the back of my head to the scalp and within a couple of months it was just like normal hair."

He says that he had been steeling himself for guffaws from his friends and colleagues, but no one teased him. "I was expecting some ribbing but I didn't get that. In fact, people seemed to think I was really brave getting it done. Three or four people came up to me and asked for the number of the clinic and another of my friends wants her boyfriend to get it done. I think it's brilliant."

'I may need to sculpt myself into a new job'

HELP DESK

YOUR CAREER PROBLEMS SOLVED
BY THE EXPERTS

I AM 34 years old and graduated in 1996 with a BA honours degree in sculpture. I have been working since then in factories and am desperate to escape and find a more rewarding occupation. As you can imagine, there are not too many regular jobs for sculptors. During the last two years I have had a number of interviews for figurative modelling, including a trial at Madame Tussauds, but again was unsuccessful.

I am beginning to realise that I may not find work in my chosen field and have started to think about broadening my outlook. I have vaguely entertained the possibility of three-dimensional computer graphics, or anything else that may require a similar type of hands-on technical skill. I would be grateful for any suggestions.

David Carr, Leicestershire

TRULY FOCUS on what direction you want to take and the skills you have to offer, and assess whether your form of sculpture and knowledge of materials and processes are applicable to the companies you are contacting.

When applying for work you must be as informative as possible, demonstrate your capability within your portfolio, and after application follow up and ask for feedback on your work. It is important that once you have established a positive contact within a company, you follow up on a regular basis. Within the environment of animation model making for commercials, the projected workload can change in a matter of weeks. There are a lot of very talented people wanting to work within creative environments and, as with Aardman, these companies will have hundreds of CVs on file. You must prove that you have the drive, and keep reminding them who you are.

Aardman employs freelance model makers/sculptors; on our commercials, site contracts last between six and eight weeks and we are currently employing eight people on these. On features, site contracts run from six months to a year.

and we have more than 40 people working on these at the moment.

Kerry A. Evans, resource manager, Model Making, Aardman Animations

YOU ARE correct when you say that you may well not be able to find work in your chosen field.

It is a sad fact of life that leisure is what people really want to do and they are therefore willing to do it for nothing. Conversely, work is what people do not want to do, and it therefore must be paid for. Traditional sculpting falls into the former category and the laws of supply and demand mean that you are unlikely to get paid for it.

However, all is not lost. If you have talent, then by learning a few skills, such as using a computer graphics package, you will find that you have a combination that companies are willing to pay for. I would recommend 3D Studio MAX, Photoshop and Lightwave.

As the UK's leading specialist agency for artists, programmers and other creative people who want to work in the computer games' industry, we would expect you to be able to demonstrate your talent by providing sample artwork and having an aptitude to learn, or already possessing, computer skills. You should not expect a high salary initially, and please be prepared to relocate.

I would really like to see your CV and artwork, but I would recommend that your 3-D appreciation and spatial awareness should be harnessed and turned into a saleable skill. Reading magazines such as *Computer Arts* and *Edge* will help to keep you informed of current trends.

Julien Hofer, director of Data-scope

COMPILED BY
CARMEN FIELDING AND
VICKY TRAPMORE

If you have a work problem and want expert advice, write to Carmen Fielding, Fast Track, Features, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; fax 0171-293 2182; e-mail c.fielding@independent.co.uk

A healthy dose of trust

CV

DAVID JOHNSON, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF A 'SUPER TRUST' OF HOSPITALS IN LEEDS



David Johnson: 'There is no hidden agenda'

DAVID JOHNSON, 41, is chief executive of a "super trust" of hospitals in Leeds, which includes St James's and Seacroft University. He now earns a £125,000 salary but his first job in the NHS was as a £35-a-week porter.

I got a temporary portering job while I decided what to do after finishing a politics degree at Sheffield University. I worked at Lodge Moor hospital in Sheffield, which is closed now. There is no doubt it gave me an insight into hospital life. I was attracted to hospital management as a consequence of being a porter.

I was a porter in the X-ray department, which was a job nobody else wanted to do because it involved a lot of walking. Some of my early experiences there demonstrated the value of the NHS to me. My first job in the day would be to go up to the spinal injuries unit and collect patients for their various examinations and radiology. I would see some really tragic cases – young kids who had car accidents and faced the prospect of spending the rest of their lives paraplegic. The support they would give to the NHS, regardless of the pain, was something which I thought should make this country feel really proud.

There were other important experiences – during that time there was the Industrial action of 1979, the Winter of Discontent. That gave me an insight into the difficult industrial relations climate in the NHS. And it also showed me at first hand the impact that downing tools can have on

patients. After being a porter for nine months, a senior radiographer said I should consider the NHS management training scheme. I thought that managing hospitals would be as complex a challenge as you could get. The connection between a management career and a political environment was something that attracted me. I had been fairly active in student politics and had been involved in the grant protest issue, the anti-Nazi league, and had attended a few demonstrations in London. In the early days of my degree, I was very concerned at the gaps that exist in society; those people who the Labour government would now say were "excluded" from mainstream society. I suppose, because of their

age, students tend to be idealistic and can find it difficult adjusting to work. The NHS gave me the opportunity to channel some of my idealism. I think my attitudes now are much more informed by over 20 years of management in the health service. Over time I have become much more realistic. I'm more pragmatic and focused with what we can achieve within the financial and clinical constraints.

The training scheme lasted two-and-a-half years and I went to hospitals in Manchester, Oldham, and Rochdale.

They send you on various attachments to give you an impression of the NHS from both the patients' and the doctors' perspectives. When that finished, I was not guaranteed a job but got one in open competition at Manchester Royal Infirmary. I stayed there for just under two years.

Then I was asked to apply for a job in Pontefract, in Yorkshire, which gave me my first general manager's job in a hospital. I moved to St James's four years later as director of operations, which meant I was running the biggest hospital in the country on a day-to-day basis.

I became chief executive after the post was advertised nationally, and I did that for six years.

Then, when the two trusts

in Leeds merged, the position was again advertised nationally and I got it.

I would say I am generally level-headed. Of things that people say about me, first is that I listen, particularly to the clinical professions. I hope I have earned the respect of my clinical colleagues. My style is consultative. I encourage them to correspond; I've got a big file from clinicians telling me how the trust should be run. My job is to help them do what they are trying to do.

People say I am direct and straight – there is no hidden agenda. We employ 15,000 people in this organisation and if you work on trust you can give people the best service possible with the resources you've got.

I am delighted with the way things have turned out. When I joined the training scheme I'm sure I did not expect to become one of the most important people in the NHS at a relatively young age.

I have no regrets at all. I think running hospitals is a very important role within British society.

My ambition has always been to be the general manager or chief executive of a large teaching hospital.

I think because I have got a very stable family life, that has been a big advantage. The days are long and the pressures can sometimes be intense. Luckily, I've managed to keep up my interest in playing the guitar.

INTERVIEW BY
MARK OLIVER

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CRANLEY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
NO 002846 OF 1998
IN THE MATTER OF
ASTON INDUSTRIES LIMITED
(IN ADMINISTRATION)
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE
INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of the administrators, Messrs. J. & J. Morgan, 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on the 29th day of July 1998 at 10.00 am.
The business of the meeting will be to consider the appointment of a receiver and manager of the property of the company and to consider the appointment of an administrator of the company.
The meeting will be held in private and no person will be admitted to the meeting unless he or she has been authorised by the administrators to attend the meeting.
By Order of the Administrators
RICHARD ANTHONY JEFFREY HOPKINS
Administrators
10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF
Date: 15th June 1998

Notice of Appointment of Joint Administrative Receivers
BARNPRINT LIMITED
Notice is hereby given that Jeremy Berman and Mark Lewis of Brierley, 76, Rye, Cavendish Street, London W1M 7LB were appointed Joint Administrative Receivers of the above named company by Part 66 of the Companies Act 1985 on the 29th day of June 1998.

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Busy consultancy require a number of consultants that have at least 10 years IT experience, of which the last 5 years have been in a telecomms environment. Specifically they are looking for people with the following technology skills: real time systems, messaging systems, signalling systems, C/Unix, RAD, CTI, network management and billing systems. They also require a number of Business Analysts with telecomms market knowledge.

Contact: Matt Strange Ref: MT2840
email: matt_strange@ers.co.uk

Telecomms Software

Midxx to £32K
The success continues within this call centre developer. Firmly established as leaders within their field they have just moved to their purpose built European Headquarters in Middlesex. They are now seeking a number of high calibre Software Engineers with UNIX and C experience coupled with ISDN, DASS/DPNSS with a wish to cross train to C++ and Windows (95/NT).

Contact: Adrian Wagstaff Ref: AW2839
email: adrian_wagstaff@ers.co.uk

Software Engineers (all levels)

Herts to £32K
Data Security company require Junior and Senior Software Engineers with C++, C and/or Java experience gained in one of the following environments: Windows NT/95, Embedded Systems or Java Virtual Machine. Responsibilities will include design and development of software subsystems and components, supporting and interacting with hardware devices and writing test software for design verification.

Contact: Matt Strange Ref: MT2841
email: matt_strange@ers.co.uk



ERS Technical
Ambassador House, 575-599 Maxted Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP2 7DX
telephone 01442 231691
facsimile 01442 253990
web <http://www.ers.co.uk/ers>

ERS Technical is a member of Executive Recruitment Services plc group of companies

Financial Accountant (ref: COM/610)

Management Accountant (ref: COM/611)

Salary circa £19,000

Applications are invited for the above two posts which have become vacant following the promotion of the previous holders.

Wandsworth Community Health Trust is a major provider of Community Services within South West London.

You should preferably be studying for an accountancy qualification, have good communication skills and be able to work under pressure and to impending deadlines.

You will be joining a small dynamic team responsible for the delivery of financial services to the Trust. This is an excellent opportunity to develop your career as part of a progressive Trust which is committed to training and personal development. The Trust offers generous assistance with training costs.

If you would like to know more about these positions please contact Tom Breen, Director of Finance on 0181 700 0557.

For an information pack please contact the recruitment line on 0181 725 3768, or write to Suzanne Ramshaw, Human Resources Assistant, HR Department, 2nd Floor, Clare House, Blackshaw Road, London SW17 0QT. Please quote relevant ref. No.

Closing Date: 16th July 1998

Interview Date: Week commencing 20th July 1998

We are an equal opportunities Employer
Wandsworth Community Health Trust operates a no smoking policy.

THIS NEWSPAPER AND YOU

If you have a complaint about an item in this newspaper which concerns inaccuracy, intrusion, harassment or discrimination, write to the editor about it.

If you're still dissatisfied you can write to the Press Complaints Commission, an independent organisation established to uphold an editorial Code of Practice for the Press.

THIS NEWSPAPER ABIDES BY THE PCC'S DECISIONS

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Our client seeks two first class field sales professionals to work on their market leading publications. Media sales experience preferred, but not essential. Excellent company benefits and a great opportunity to grow a career.

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We have 3 clients seeking experienced account managers for their sales teams. If you enjoy rising to the challenge of offering a quality service, developing existing client portfolios and acquiring new business, call us now.

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We currently have 8 vacancies in five companies for exceptional field sales professionals to work in telecomms, office equipment, advertising, IT and courier services.

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Contact Taking Care of Business on 0181 325 2550 or fax your details on 0181 325 1057 for an immediate response.

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This is an excellent stepping stone into business journalism writing about the dynamic European computer industry. Passport Publishing is a highly respected newsletter and market research house whose clients are top management who pay top prices for top quality editorial.

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Contact Susannah Hecht or Max Hotoph on 01206 224402 or pceuropa.com

SALES GRADUATES!!!

Are you looking to work in the City in smart, modern offices? We are a fast developing company based in EC1 who are seeking self motivated, ambitious sales graduates. The right candidates must have the ability to work under pressure within a lively office and possess a great sense of humour together with excellent communication skills.

If you are interested in entering the world of sales and feel you can thrive in an office where the pace never stops, please apply in writing with CV to:

Sarah Tranter, SM Group, Unit 31, Angel Gate, City Road, London EC1V 2PT or telephone 0171 689 5678

No rec. cons

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Pages of appointments every Thursday

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JULY 29TH AND AUGUST 4TH 1998

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APPENDIX B

CHICAGO	FRANKFURT	HONG KONG	JOHANNESBURG	LONDON	MADRID	MILAN	MUMBAI	NEW YORK	PARIS	SINGAPORE	TOKYO
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HEAD OFFICE CAREERS FOR GRADUATES

- PLEASE CONTACT HANNAH STOKELY AT SUCCESS APPOINTMENTS
7 AIR STREET, LONDON W1P 5RJ. TEL: 0171 287 7722,
FAX: 0171 734 1692. E-MAIL: successBM@aol.com

**OVERSEAS
EXPORTS**

Small area = 0.0001 m² 10000 = 10⁴

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FIELD SALES EXECUTIVE VIDEO AND MULTIMEDIA

Applicant must be self motivated, literate and numerate with a clean driving licence. On target earnings, £30,000 plus car. Please send CV to Sandra Rumble, TC Video, Wembley Commercial Centre, East Lane, Wembley HA9 7UU.

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DO NOT SEND IDEA/STORY IN FIRST INSTANCE

ADDC

APPENDIX

11

Monday

IT Science, Engineer

11, Science, 1998, 281, 1491-1495.

Media, Marketing, & Sales

1. *Chlorophyll a* (Chl *a*)

APPOINTMENTS DIARY

Monday
IT Science, Engineering

Tuesday
Media, Marketing, Sales

Wednesday
Finance, Legal, Secretarial

Thursday
Education, Graduate

Sunday
Public, General

Questions Publishing produces acclaimed magazines, books and videos on education and is expanding rapidly. We urgently require:

IT SYSTEMS MANAGER

A talented, experienced Information Systems Manager in a responsible technical position. He/she will support existing systems, develop the subscriptions, marketing and advertising functions to meet critical objectives, and integrating them into our new Internet selling operations. Key skills required are DOS, Windows, PC Networks (preferably Novell), PC Database (preferably Foxpro), ccMail and MS-Office (to macro level). The successful candidate will have business and technical flair, and will be involved in business development, particularly marketing.

WEB - SITE MANAGER/EDITOR

We need a talented, technically competent manager to maintain and develop what will be one of the most exciting sites in education. The successful candidate will have a strong understanding of marketing and selling on the Internet and the ability to create a commercial/editorial vision for the site. An interest in education a definite advantage.

Salaries by negotiation. Please contact Howard Sharron with full CV and examples of work where appropriate, The Questions Publishing Company Ltd, 27 Frederick St, Hockley, Birmingham, B1 3EH.

Wanted.
Graduates who
would like to
get back to the
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Are you getting the degree of job satisfaction you expected when you graduated? The responsibility? The intellectual stimulation? The personal rewards? The buzz? Are you using at work what you learned at university? Teaching needs people who want to use their knowledge and experience to the full: people with academic ability, a flair for communication and the talent to inspire. In return, it gives what very few careers can: the chance to change hundreds of lives, a unique place in the mind of everyone you influence and job satisfaction that doesn't stop when you retire. You'll be fully involved (and stretched) from the day you start. No fees are payable for the Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE). If you think you have it in you to bring out the best in others, please visit us at www.teach.org.uk or call us on 01245 454 454.

NO-ONE FORGETS A GOOD TEACHER.

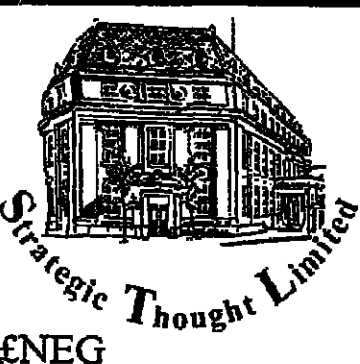
To: Teacher Training Agency Communication Centre, FREEPOST AN02658, Chesham, Essex CM1 3ZC. I would like to learn more about becoming a teacher. Please send me an information pack.
Name: _____ Address: _____ Postcode: _____ Telephone: _____
Current Status: In a Student/Employee/Unemployed/Retired/Other: _____ Special Teaching Interest (Primary/Secondary/Subject): _____

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENTAL EMPLOYMENT

With local partners, Manchester Training and Enterprise Council is committed to developing the community and voluntary sector as a source of local people. A £17 million programme of capacity building and local employment commenced in April 1998 and is due to last for three years. The programme, funded through European Social Fund, Single Regeneration Budget, New Deal and partners' funds, is being implemented by a new team consisting of staff with responsibility for developing local employment of local benefit and delivering employment projects.

- Team Manager** £18,000 - £25,000
Reporting to the Operations Manager, and a key member of the management team for the initiative, the post is responsible for the management of a team of Delivery Managers.
- Delivery Managers** £15,000 - £25,000
Working with Sponsoring Employers to provide management and supervision support and access to appropriate business services. Contributing to the employment of young people and development of the Sponsoring Employer.
- Development Managers** £15,000 - £25,000
Responsible for supporting community and environmental organisations in developing local employment projects; advising on types of jobs, appropriate training and personal development; and management of contracts with Sponsoring Employers.

BUSINESS SUPPORT
Previous applicants will be automatically re-considered.
If you wish to apply for any of these vacancies please send your CV with a covering letter, to: Philip Murphy, Human Resources Department, Manchester TEC, Lee House, 90 Great Bridgewater Street, Manchester M1 5JW.
Closing date: By 1st post 15th July 1998.
No agencies please.



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Strategic Thought Limited is an independent software house and IT consultancy based in Wimbledon, London. We are currently looking for:

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Strategic Thought Limited

The Old Town Hall
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SOCIAL SURVEY INTERVIEWERS

The Social Survey Division of ONS has vacancies for interviewers living in certain sectors of the following postcode areas AB, AL, B, CH, CT, CV, DA, DL, DN, DT, EH, EN, FY, G, GL, HA, HG, HR, HU, HX, KT, KY, L, LE, M, ME, NG, OL, PA, PR, SK, SL, SN, SP, TS, TW, UB, WN, and the London Boroughs. (Those applying in areas within these postcodes where no posts are currently available will be kept on file and considered at a later date.)

The work involves calling on people in their homes and collecting information on a variety of social issues on behalf of the government by carrying out structured interviews.

Candidates should have a pleasant manner, smart appearance, and good communication skills. Own car and telephone are essential. The work is hourly paid at attractive rates plus expenses. Interviewers are required to be available for at least three days and three evenings per week. The retirement age is 65.

For an application form please write to Central Support Unit, D1/11, Office for National Statistics, 1 Drummond Gate, London SW1V 2QQ. Postcards only. Requests should be received no later than 17 July 1998, and completed application forms by 31 July 1998.



ONS is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from suitably qualified individuals, irrespective of racial origin, sex or disability. All applications will be treated on merit.

SDL INTERNATIONAL

SDL International is a leading Software and Multimedia Localisation company with offices in Europe, Japan and the USA

Engineering Manager & Software Engineers

These roles involve building and integrating software resources, plus designing and executing test plans to verify the localised product.

- To ensure software localisation engineering projects are executed efficiently and profitably while maintaining high quality levels
- An excellent knowledge of Windows is required and experience in software integration/programming in DOS and Windows environments would be an advantage
- The Engineering Manager will be responsible for the recruitment and retention of highly competent staff and should have a track record of managing people in a technical environment.

Senior Network Engineer

This role requires an excellent communicator who is able to support an international base of users. The right candidate will be highly reliable, have a high degree of problem solving skills and a wide technical knowledge including TCP/IP, Exchange Server and experience with SCSS. An understanding of NT 4.0 (Administration and set-up) is required as well as proven front line support ability and an in-depth knowledge of Windows applications.

Japanese Translators

Salary £14 - 22k depending upon skills and experience

These roles involve translating software and documentation from English into Japanese. Ideal candidates will have experience of technical translation, familiarity with Japanese IT/MS Windows terminology and a good knowledge of Windows software products or Word and/or Macintosh experience.

Japanese Software Engineers/Translators

Salary £10 - 16k depending upon skills and experience

These roles involve building and integrating Japanese software resources and executing test plans to verify the localised product. Ideal candidates will have a knowledge of MS Windows 3.1, 95 or NT and be Japanese speaking.

Senior Chinese Software Engineer/Translator/DTP Specialist

Salary £17 - 22k depending upon skills and experience

This role involves the translation, DTP and software engineering for localised products. The ideal candidate will have a high degree of computer literacy in UNIX/Windows and Mac environments, combined with excellent Software Engineering/Translation and DTP skills, particularly in high end Desktop Publishing packages. Applicants should be self-starters, qualified to degree level and fluent in Chinese. A knowledge of SGML, LATEX and TeX would also be a distinct advantage.

Brazilian Portuguese Translators

Salary £14 - 20k depending upon skills and experience

These roles involve translating software and documentation from English into Brazilian Portuguese. Ideal candidates will be fluent in Brazilian Portuguese, have a degree in translation or equivalent and be computer literate with an interest in IT and/or Multimedia/Computer Games.

SDL can offer a competitive salary, pension, salary continuation and life assurance as well as a great working environment.

Please apply in writing, enclosing your CV and salary expectation to:
Aileen Gradwell, SDL International, Butler House, Market Street,
Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 8AA.

Fax: 01628 410505 e-mail: aileen@edl.co.uk <http://www.edlintl.com>

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and watertight integrity of ships/

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For further info., send coupon or

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Accommodation Services Officer

Cambridge

£17,220 p.a.

Following our successful expansion into the NHS Trust Sector, Sanctuary Housing Association is seeking to appoint a customer-focused individual to manage the day to day property services provided to over 800 staff at a prominent hospital site in Cambridge.

The successful candidate is likely to be currently working in a customer service environment and possess a good working knowledge of property management issues. A minimum of one year's experience of managing staff is essential as well as the ability to work effectively under pressure.

Knowledge of domestic services and IT literacy would be advantageous.

Benefits include 26 days annual leave, flexitime and a contributory pension scheme. A staff uniform will be provided. The Cambridge Office operates a "No Smoking" policy.

For an application form and information pack, please contact Kate Holloway, Sanctuary Housing Association, Grandchester House, Adrian Way, Long Road, Cambridge. Tel No. 01223 726060.

CVs will not be accepted.

Closing date: 17 July 1998.

Interview date: 27 July 1998.

The Association is working towards becoming an equal opportunities employer and is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity in our Selection and Recruitment Procedures.



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Is looking for a

Credit Controller

to work in our busy accounts department.

Experience, preferably in Media, is essential.

Must be computer literate

S/he will be confident and articulate and have an

excellent telephone manner.

Excellent salary and benefits.

Junior Credit Controller

Ideally a school/college leaver with at least 5 GCSEs

including Maths. Must be computer literate.

S/he must be confident, mature

and have an excellent telephone manner.

Applications, in writing with CV to The General Manager,

Ref. CC1, Time Out Magazine, Universal House, 261

Tottenham Court Road, London, W1P 0AB

to arrive no later than 17th July 1998

References will be taken up on the successful candidates

PECKHAM
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Rye City Of Angels 4.10pm, 8.30pm, 8.50pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm Mimic 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm The Object Of My Affection 4.05pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Six Days, Seven Nights 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 8.50pm Soul Food 3.30pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm

PURLEY
ABC (0870-902 0407) BR: Purley The Object Of My Affection 5.40pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 5.10pm, 8.10pm Sliding Doors 5.50pm, 8.40pm

PUTNEY
ABC (0870 902 0401) Putney Bridge BR: Putney City Of Angels 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.00pm, 8.30pm The Object Of My Affection 1pm, 6pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm The Wedding Singer 3.30pm, 4pm, 7pm, 9.30pm

RICHMOND
ODEON STUDIO (0181-315 4218) BR: Richmond City Of Angels 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9pm The Object Of My Affection 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 4pm, 7pm, 9.30pm

ROMFORD
ABC (0870-902 0419) BR: Romford City Of Angels 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.15pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 2.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm Six Days, Seven Nights 2.10pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (01708-729040) BR: Romford City Of Angels 12.40pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm Deep Impact 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Mimic 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm The Object Of My Affection 12.50pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Sliding Doors 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

SIDCUP
ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup City Of Angels 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 2.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

STAPLES CORNER
VIRGIN (0870-907 0717) BR: Crickwood City Of Angels 1.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm Mimic 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm The Object Of My Affection 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8pm The Wedding Singer 2pm, 5.20pm, 8pm

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-902 0415) BR: Streatham Hill City Of Angels 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 2.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Sliding Doors 2.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.25pm, 8.40pm

ODEON (0181-315 4219) BR: Streatham Hill City Of Angels 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm The Object Of My Affection 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm Sliding Doors 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Wedding Singer 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

STRATFORD
NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 3369) BR: Stratford East City Of Angels 3.50pm, 6pm The Girl With Brains In Her Feet 2pm, 6.50pm Girls' Night 1.30pm, 6.30pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm The Object Of My Affection 4.20pm, 6.50pm Six Days, Seven Nights 2.15pm, 4.35pm, 6.55pm, 9.15pm

SUTTON
UCI 6 (0990-888990) BR: Sutton UCI 6 Morden City Of Angels 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Mimic 9.45pm The Object Of My Affection 4.45pm, 7.15pm Six Days, Seven Nights 4.50pm, 7pm Sliding Doors 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Wedding Singer 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

TURNPIKE LANE
CORONET (0181-888 2519) Turnpike Lane Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.35pm Mimic 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

WALTHAMSTOW
ABC (0870-9020424) Walthamstow Central Mimic 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm The Object Of My Affection 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.20pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

WALTON ON THAMES
THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-258285) BR: Walton on Thames Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.05pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm Six Days, Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

WELL HALL
CORONET (0181-850 3351) Well Hall Mimic 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

WILLESDEN
BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822) Willesden Green City Of Angels 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

WIMBLEDON
ODEON (0181-315 4222) BR: Wembley City Of Angels 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Object Of My Affection 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm Sliding Doors 4.30pm The Wedding Singer 2.30pm

WOODFORD
ABC (0181-989 3463) South Woodford City Of Angels 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm The Object Of My Affection 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

WOOLWICH
CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm Six Days, Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

CINEMA
REPERTORY

LONDON
CINE LUMIERE AT THE INSTITUT FRANCAIS
Queensbury Place SW7 (0171-838 2144/2145) Mondays-Sat (18) 7.30pm

ICA The Mall SW1 (0171-930 3647) The Fundamental Gilbert And George (NC) 5pm, 7pm, 9pm Behind Convent Walls (NC) 6.30pm The Streetwalker (NC) 8.30pm

THE LUX Hoxton Square N1 (0171-684 0201) Croatia Programme 2 (NC) 9pm

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-633 0274) BR: The Dog (18) 2.30pm, 7.30pm The Butcher Boy (18) 6.15pm My Favourite Film-maker: Yasujiro Ozu Education Event (NC) 8.30pm Gang Related (18) 8.30pm Some Like It Hot (U) 8.40pm

PEPSI IMAX The Trocadero, Piccadilly Circus W1 (0171-494 4153) Across The Sea Of Time - A New York Adventure (2-D) (U) 11am, 1.05pm, 5.20pm L5-City In Space (NC) 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.30pm, 8.25pm Everest (U) 3.20pm, 7.50pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 (0171-437 8181) Wild Man Blues (12) 1.30pm Afterglow (15) 4pm The General (16) 6.30pm Gattaca (15) 9.15pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road W6 (0181-237 1110) Mighty Aphrodite (15) 6.45pm + Everyone Says I Love You 8.40pm

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street TW9 (0181-568 1178) The Real Blonde (15) 4.30pm Lolita (18) 6.30pm City Of Angels (12) 9pm

BRISTOL
WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) Love And Death On Long Island (15) 6pm, 8.25pm Journey To The Beginning Of The World (Vagabond As Principio del Mundo) (U) 6.05pm The Big Lebowski (18) 8.15pm

CAMBRIDGE
ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444) Good Will Hunting (15) 12.30pm Love And Death On Long Island (15) 2.45pm, 9.20pm Afterglow (15) 4.50pm The General (16) 7pm

CARDIFF
CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) The Real Blonde (15) 2.30pm, 7.30pm Lolita (18) 6.15pm Love And Death On Long Island (15) 9.15pm

CHEICHESTER
NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (01243-786650) Washington Square (PG) 1.15pm, 6.15pm The Wings Of The Dove (15) 3.45pm As Good As It Gets (15) 8.45pm

IPSWICH
IPSWICH FILM THEATRE (01473-215544) Amy Foster (12) 2.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm Shall We Dance? (PG) 6pm, 8.30pm

NORWICH
NORWICH CITY (01603-622047) Live Flesh (18) 2.30pm, 5.45pm Way The Dog (15) 8.15pm

CINEMA
COUNTRYWIDE

BRIGHTON
ABC EAST ST (01273-327010) The Object Of My Affection (15): Sliding Doors (15): Six Days, Seven Nights (12)

ODEON (01273-207977) Six Days, Seven Nights (12): The Wedding Singer (12): The Object Of My Affection (15): The Big Lebowski (18): Moushmouth (PG): City Of Angels (12): Mimic (15)

VIRGIN (0541-555145) The Wedding Singer (12): City Of Angels (12): Star Kid (PG): Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 2 (PG): Six Days, Seven Nights (12): Deep Impact (12): Moushmouth (PG): Mimic (15): The Object Of My Affection (15): Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) (PG): Sliding Doors (15)

BRISTOL
ARNOLFINI (0117-929 9191) The Wedding Banquet (15): The Ice Storm (15)

CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (01275-831099) Six Days, Seven Nights (12): Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) (PG): Westminster (18): 101 Dalmatians (U) Moushmouth (PG): As Good As It Gets (15): Deep Impact (12): Jab Pyar Kisse Ho To Hai (PG): City Of Angels (12): Blues Brothers 2000 (PG): Sliding Doors (15): Star Kid (PG): Mimic (15): Screen 21 (18): Anastasia (U): Bean (PG): The Big Lebowski (18): The Wedding Singer (12): Dushman (15): The Object Of My Affection (15): Titanic (12): Dark City (15)

ORPHEUS KENLEAZE (0117-952 1844): Lolita (18): The Wedding Singer (12): Six Days, Seven Nights (12): Amy Foster (12)

ODEON (0117-929 0882) George Of The Jungle (U): Flubber (U): The Object Of My Affection (15): Good Will Hunting (15): Paws (PG): The Wedding Singer (12): Six Days, Seven Nights (12)

ABC WHITELADES ROAD (0117-973 3640): Mimic (15): Sliding Doors (15): Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) (PG): City Of Angels (12)

WATERSHED (0117-925 3845): Ugetsu Monogatari (NC): Kunitzowski Short Films + Intro (18): Love And Death On Long Island (15): The Big Lebowski (18): Fists In The Pocket (NC): Exploitation Double Bill (18): Journey To The Beginning Of The World (U)

HENLEY-ON-THAMES
REGAL (01491-414150): Sliding Doors (15): Ronette (15): The Object Of My Affection (15): Six Days, Seven Nights (12)

THEATRE
WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today: times and prices for the week; running times include intervals. ● - Seats at all prices. ● - Seats at some prices. ● - Returns only. Matinee: [1] Sun, [3] Tue, [4] Wed, [5] Thu, [6] Fri, [7] Sat

● **ANIMAL CRACKERS** Three actors recreate the wild antics of the Marx Brothers. Barbican Sculpture Court Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 4141) ● Barbican/Moorgate, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Sat 2pm, ends 11 Jul, £10-£19.

● **ART** Richard Griffiths, Tony Haygarth and Malcolm Story in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship. Wyndham's Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 867 1111) ● Leicester Square, Tue-Sat 8pm, mats Wed 3pm, Sat & Sun 5pm, £9.50-£27.50, 90 mins.

● **AS YOU LIKE IT** Shakespeare's literary comedy which contrasts the Court and the natural world. The Globe New Globe Walk, SE1 (0171-401 9919) ● London Bridge, in rep, today 2pm, ends 8 Sep, £5-£20, concs available, 180 mins.

● **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** Lavish family musical based on Disney's classic. By law, a new production of Shakespeare's classic. Playhouse Theatre, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-839 4401/cc 316 4747) ● Embankment, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Tue & Sat 3pm, £5.75-£32.50, 165 mins.

● **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING** Decian Donnell directed. Check By law, a new production of Shakespeare's classic. Playhouse Theatre, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-839 4401/cc 316 4747) ● Embankment, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Tue & Sat 3pm, £5.75-£32.50, 165 mins.

● **THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD** David Warner's new play is directed by Patrick Marber. Royal Court Theatre (at the Duke of York's) St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-585 5000) ● Leicester Square, Mon-Sat 3.30pm, £5-£19.50, benches 10p, Mon - all seats £5, 90 mins.

● **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400/cc 344 4444) ● Piccadilly Circus, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £10-£32.50, 165 mins.

● **POPCORN** Lawrence Boswell directs Ben Elton's satire on cinema violence. Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) ● Piccadilly Circus, Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Wed & Sat 4pm, £5-£22.50, 150 mins.

● **THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND & BLACK COMEDY** Double bill of drama from Tom Stoppard and Peter Shaffer, directed by Gregory Doran. Comedy Theatre, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) ● Piccadilly Circus, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £7.50-£27.50, 165 mins.

● **RENT** Musical inspired by Larry Brown and set in modern-day New York. Shaftesbury Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399) ● Haymarket/Tottenham Court Road, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £12.50-£32.50, 160 mins.

● **ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE** ● **OLIVER!** Oldham Rodgers and Hammerstein musical. In rep, tonight 7.15pm, ends 3 Oct.

● **LYTTLETON: The Prime Of Miss Jean Brodie** Fiona Shaw stars as the Scottish schoolmistress in this new adaptation of the classic novel by Muriel Spark. In rep, today 2.15pm & 7.30pm, ends 3 Oct, 155 mins.

● **COTTESLOE: Our Lady Of Sligo** Out Of John's latest production stars Siobhán Cusack. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends 4 Aug, 150 mins.

● **OLIVIER!** 121-532-50. Olivier & Lyttelton: £8-£27. Cottelose: £12-£18. South Bank SE1 (0171-452 3000).

● **SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER** Hit 1970s musical featuring songs by the Bee Gees. London Palladium, Argyll Street, W1 (0171-494 5020) ● Oxford Circus, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, £10-£32.50, 135 mins.

● **SHAKESPEARE'S VILLAINS** Seven Beckett's look at evil in Shakespeare. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-369 1731) ● Piccadilly Circus, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £15-£30, ends 11 Jul, £10-£50, 120 mins.

● **GREASE** Marissa Dunlop stars in the stage version of the hit film. Cambridge Theatre, Easton Street, WC2 (0171-494 5020) ● Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £10-£50, 150 mins.

● **HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE** Fazio Vogel's drama about the incestuous relationship between a teenager and her uncle. Donmar Warehouse, Easton Street, WC2 (0171-565 1732) ● Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Thu & Sat 4pm, £12-£18, concs available, 95 mins.

● **THE ICEMAN COMETH** Kevin Spacey stars in Eugene O'Neill's classic testimony to the power of dreams. Old Vic, St. Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-928 7676) BR: Waterlooville, Mon-Sat 7pm, mats Sat 1.30pm, ends 1 Aug, £5-£20, 180 mins.

● **AN IDEAL HUSBAND** Christopher Cazenove and Kate Winslet in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of Wilde's comedy. Albany Theatre, St. Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730/cc 867 1111) ● Leicester Square, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Thu 3pm, Sat 4pm, £7-£29.50, 165 mins.

● **AN INSPECTOR CALLS** Stephen Dillaly's acclaimed production of Agatha Christie's classic. Garrick Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) ● Leicester Square, Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 6.15pm, mats Wed 2.30pm, Sat 5pm, £19.50-£25, 110 mins.

● **KAT AND THE KINGS** Musical set in 1950s Cape Town. Vaudeville Theatre, Strand WC2 (0171-826 9967) BR: Charing Cross, Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 5.30pm & 8.30pm, £6.25-£27.50, 130 mins.

● **A LETTER OF RESIGNATION** Hugh Whitemore's play about the Promoters after the Theatre Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8899) ● Charing Cross, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed 3pm, Sat 4pm, £12-£25, 135 mins.

● **MAJOR BARBARA** Jenna Redgrave and Peter Bowles star. Piccadilly Theatre, Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) ● Piccadilly Circus, in rep, today 2.30pm & 7.45pm, continuing, £8.50-£27.50, 180 mins.

● **THE MERCHANT OF VENICE** Shakespeare's cross cultural comedy. The Globe New Globe Walk, SE1 (0171-401 9919) ● London Bridge, in rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends 19 Sep, £5-£20, concs available, 180 mins.

● **A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM** Tale of love and confusion set in the fairy kingdom. Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park, NW1 (0171-486 2431) ● Baker Street, in rep, today 2.30pm & 8pm, ends 5 Sep, £8-£20, 165 mins.

● **LES MISERABLES** Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's masterpiece. Palace Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 0909) ● Piccadilly Circus, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thu & Sat 2.30pm, £7-£32.50, 195 mins.

● **MISS SAIGON** Musical which retells the Madam Butterfly tragedy to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080) ● Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £5.75-£32.50, 165 mins.

● **THE MOUSETRAP** Agatha Christie's whodunnit. St Martin's Theatre, Leicester Square, WC2 (0171-836 2238/cc 344 4444) ● Covent Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Tue 2.45pm, Sat 5pm, £9-£23, 135 mins.

● **THE WOMAN IN BLACK** Susan Hill's chilling ghost story. Fortune Theatre, Russell Street, WC2 (0171-836 2238/cc 344 4444) ● Covent Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Tue 3pm, Sat 4pm, £8.50-£23.50, 110 mins.

● **WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND** Lloyd Webber's new musical. Aldwych Theatre, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003) ● Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thu & Sat 3pm, £10-£32.50, 120 mins.

● **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400/cc 344 4444) ● Piccadilly Circus, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £10-£32.50, 165 mins.

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THURSDAY RADIO

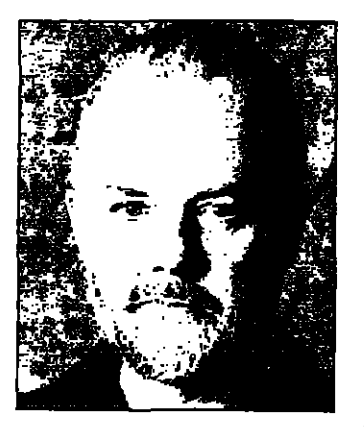
Radio 1 (97.5-98.5MHz FM)
6.30 Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball. 9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Jo Wiley. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Dave Pearce. 6.30 Steve Lamacq. 8.00 The Evening Session. 8.30 Live Music Update. 8.40 John Peel. See *Pick of the Day*. 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs. 1.00 Clive Warren. 4.00 - 6.30 Chris Moyles.

Radio 2 (88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 John Dunn. 7.00 David Allan. 8.00 Paul Jones. 9.00 Stand Up 2. 9.30 The Russ Abbot Show. 10.00 Their Long Voyage Home. 10.30 Richard Allinson. 12.05 Steve Madden. 3.00 - 4.00 Alex Lester.

Radio 3 (90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks. 10.30 Art of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. 12.00 Composers of the Week: William Byrd and Thomas Tallis. 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. 2.00 The BBC Orchestras. 4.00 The Piano. 4.45 Music Machine. 5.00 In Tune. 7.30 Performance on 3. Chris de Souza introduces a concert recorded in May as part of this year's Bath International Music Festival. The King's Consort, directed by Robert King, performs one of the greatest works of the 17th century, Monteverdi's 'Vespers of the Blessed Virgin Mary'. 9.20 Postscript. 4. Baden Baden. 5. The Casino Spa. Kathleen Griffin visits the hottest springs in Europe. (R) 9.45 Concerto Armonico. 10.00 Music Restored. Lucie Skeaping introduces a studio session by recorder player Pamela Thorby and harpsichordist Richard Egarr, who play virtuosic music from 17th-century Italy, including a sonata by Corelli and a remarkable toccata by Michelangelo Rossi.

PICK OF THE DAY

TWO PROGRAMMES this morning venture into frontier country: in a series of talks called *Border Run* (10.15am World Service), Michael Goldfarb sets out to follow the US-Mexican border, beginning in Yuma, Arizona. "Border", he discovers, is a misleading term - this border is less a dividing line than a place where Latin and Anglo-America leak into one another. Crossing Continents (11am R4), back after a brief break, goes to Perth,



ROBERT HANKS

10.45 Night Waves. America's controversial cultural commentator Camille Paglia talks to Paul Allen about her new study of Hitchcock's classic 'The Birds'. And two architects compete to build on the moon in an acclaimed French play, 'What You Get and What You Expect', which opens this week in Britain. **11.30** Jazz Notes. **12.00** Composer of the Week: Barber. (R) **1.00 - 6.00** Through the Night. **Radio 4** (92.4-94.6MHz FM) **6.00** Today. **9.00** A Hard Act to Follow. **9.30** Dedicated to... (R) **9.45** Serial: Reflections. **10.00** NEWS: Woman's Hour. **11.00** NEWS: Crossing Continents. See *Pick of the Day*. **11.30** No Commitments. **12.00** NEWS: You and Yours. **12.57** Weather. **1.00** The World at One. **1.30** Puzzle Panel. **2.00** NEWS: The Archers. **2.45** Afternoon Play: Rivers of Decadence. **3.00** NEWS: Call You and Yours (077) 580 4444. **3.30** The Great Outdoors. (R) **3.45** Fictional Families. **4.00** NEWS: Law in Action. **4.30** The Material World. **5.00** PM. **5.57** Weather. **6.00** Six O'Clock News. **6.30** Booked. **7.00** NEWS: The Archers.

the World on Fire. Simon Russell Beale reads Angus Wilson's social comedy about postwar aristocracy, theatre, architecture and anarchy. Abridged by Neville Teller (4/10). **11.00** On Baby Street. A six-part series of Julie Balloo and Jenny Eclair's comedy drama about three mothers living in the same street. 2: Yvette discovers how the other half lives when she visits her love-struck suitor and his parents. **11.30** Over the Moon. **12.00** News. **12.30** The Late Book: Bombay Ice. **12.48** Shipping Forecast. **1.00** As World Service. **5.30** World News. **5.35** Shipping Forecast. **5.40** Inshore Forecast. **5.45** Prayer for the Day. **5.47 - 6.00** Farming Today.

Radio 4 LW (98kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. **12.00 - 12.04** News Headlines: Shipping Forecast. **5.54 - 5.57** Shipping Forecast. **11.30 - 12.00** Today in Parliament.

Radio 5 Live (693, 909kHz MW)
6.00 The Breakfast Programme. **9.00** Nicky Campbell. **12.00** The Midday News. **1.00** Ruscoe and Co. **4.00** Nationwide. **7.00** News Extra. **7.30** The Bisset Games. Track-

side athletics commentary by John Rawling and Bob Phillips, with expert analysis from Mike Whittingham in Oslo. **9.00** Gower's Cricket Weekly. Cricketing gossip with David Gower and his guests. Have your say on 0500 999693. **10.00** Late Night Live. With Nick Robinson. Including the day's sports round-up at 10.30, a late night news briefing at 11.00, and 11.15 The Financial World Tonight. **1.00** Up All Night. **5.00 - 6.00** Morning Reports.

Classic FM (100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey. **8.00** Henry Kelly. **12.00** Requests. **2.00** Concerto. **3.00** Jamie Crichton. **6.30** Newsnight. **7.00** Evening Classics at Seven. **9.00** Evening Concert. **11.00** Alan Martin. **2.00** Concerto. **3.00 - 6.00** Mark Griffiths.

Virgin Radio (101.1-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Chris Evans. **10.00** Russ Williams. **1.00** Nick Abbot. **4.00** Robin Banks / Paul Coyte (FM only from 6.45). **7.30** Paul Coyte. **10.00** Mark Forrest. **2.00** Peter Poulton. **5.00 - 7.00** Jeremy Clark.

World Service (198kHz LW)
1.00 Newswatch. **1.30** Westway. **1.45** Britain Today. **2.00** Newswatch. **2.30** Composer of the Month. **3.00** Newswatch. **3.30** Focus on Faith. **4.00** World News. **4.05** World Business Report. **4.15** Sports Roundup. **4.30** The World Today (0430-0700/Insight (SW 5875kHz only). **4.45** Off the Shelf: Canide (SW 5875kHz only). **5.30** Outlook (SW 7235kHz only). **5.55 - 6.30** Science View (SW 7235kHz only).

Talk Radio
6.30 Breakfast Show Kirsty Young with Bill Overton. **9.00** Scott Chisholm. **12.00** Lorraine Kelly. **2.00** Tommy Boyd. **4.00** Peter Deeley. **7.00** Anna Rieburn. **9.00** James Whale. **1.00** Ian Collins and the Creatures of the Night. **5.00 - 6.30** The Early Show with Bill Overton.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

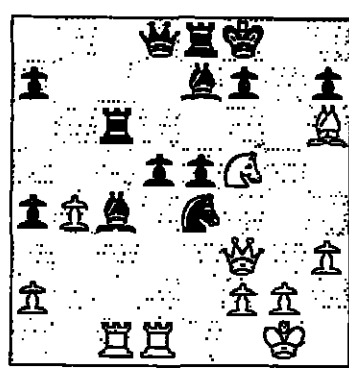
WILLIAM HARTSTON

THE MOST curious finish in the Dortmund tournament gave the young Russian Peter Svidler a rather lucky share of first prize. Playing White against Vassily Ivanchuk, he had sacrificed a piece to reach the diagram position. Black is in check and must choose between Kg8 and Rxb6.

The game continued 1...Kg8 2.Rxc4! resigns. After 2...Rxc4 3.Rxd5 Qxd5 4.Nxe7+ Rxe7 5.Qg4+ Black is mated. Resignation, however, was rather an overreaction. After 2...Rxc4 3.Rxd5 Black can fight on with 3...Qc7! 4.Nxe7+ Qxe7 5.Qg4+ Ng5 6.Qxc4, though his position is admittedly still far worse.

Perhaps Black's resignation was prompted more by the realisation that he could have won with 1...Rxb6! in the diagram position. After 2.Nxb6 Ng5 3.Qh5 Qb6 4.h4 Qg6 5.Qxg6 hxg6 6.hxg5 Bxg5 White is lost.

Here are the full moves of the game, Svidler playing White. Ivanchuk Black. Note the nice trick that 26...Rxc3? is met by 27.Nxf7! Rxb3 28.Bb6+ Kg8 29.Nxd8+.



- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 1 e4 e5 | 18 Bc2 c6 |
| 2 Nf3 Nc6 | 19 dxc6 Bxc6 |
| 3 Bb5 a6 | 20 Bg5 g6 |
| 4 Bx4 Nf6 | 21 Ng4 Be7 |
| 5 O-O Be7 | 22 Nh6+ Kf8 |
| 6 Re1 b5 | 23 Qf3 Bc7 |
| 7 Bb3 d6 | 24 Rcd1 Rcd8 |
| 8 c3 O-O | 25 b4 Na4 |
| 9 h3 Bb7 | 26 Bb3 Be6 |
| 10 d4 Re8 | 27 c4 Bxc4 |
| 11 Ng5 Rf8 | 28 Bxa4 bxa4 |
| 12 Nf3 Re8 | 29 Rac1 d5 |
| 13 Nb2 Bf8 | 30 Nh5 gxf5 |
| 14 d5 Nf8 | 31 Nxf5 Nxe4 |
| 15 Nf1 Nbd7 | 32 Bb6+ Kg8 |
| 16 Ng3 Rc8 | 33 Rxc4 resigns |
| 17 Nh2 Ne5 | |

GAMBLING

DAVID SPANIER

"IT'S PROBABLY like going to war," Stewart Reuben opined, talking about the big game at the Stakis Regency in Russell Square. "Long periods of inactivity, brief skirmishes, and then moments of terrible panic." The game, which claims to be the longest-running high-stakes poker game anywhere, consists of alternate rounds of Omaha and London low-ball (ace to the sea). The game has found a new home at the Regency, following the summer closure of the Grosvenor Victoria card room pending its refurbishment.

Anyone can sit down and play. So how big is big? The buy-in is £1,000 but that is just for starters. The antes at Omaha are £10 a head (no blinds) and at low-ball also £10, plus £25 to "bring it in" from the high card showing. So if you play, say, four rounds an hour, the cost in antes alone is likely to be about £250.

The game attracts a mixture of professionals and happy-go-lucky lucky gamblers, plus a few low-stakes and players trying to make a quick hit. It is a perilous game, particularly on the low-ball side, when you may get dealt a magic A-2-6 as starters and still fail to make a hand because then three high cards come down. Good-bye baby and amen.

As with penalty shoot-outs, the key to success is not to make mistakes. Here are a couple from the other night. At Omaha, a 10 on the river (last card) paired the board. With an ace already showing and two aces in his hand, this gave Doug a full house ace on 10s. He bet £1,000. Well wouldn't you? Corky raised him back £3,000 and Doug could not get his money in quick enough to re-raise £5,000, all-in. Why? If his opponent has got a lower full house, he will not call anyway. But if he has two 10s in the hole the had! it is too expensive to re-raise.

By contrast, here is a subtlety from another Omaha hand. Sammy, first to speak, made a straight flush on the river, and checked it. Jack, confident that he held the nut flush with his ace, bet a modest £300 - he was angling to get a call. Now Sammy could have raised the whole pot, £1,300. Instead he chose to raise just £500. Jack called, and berated himself afterwards for failing to read the straight flush. If Sammy had chosen to raise the maximum, he probably would have done. Live and learn.

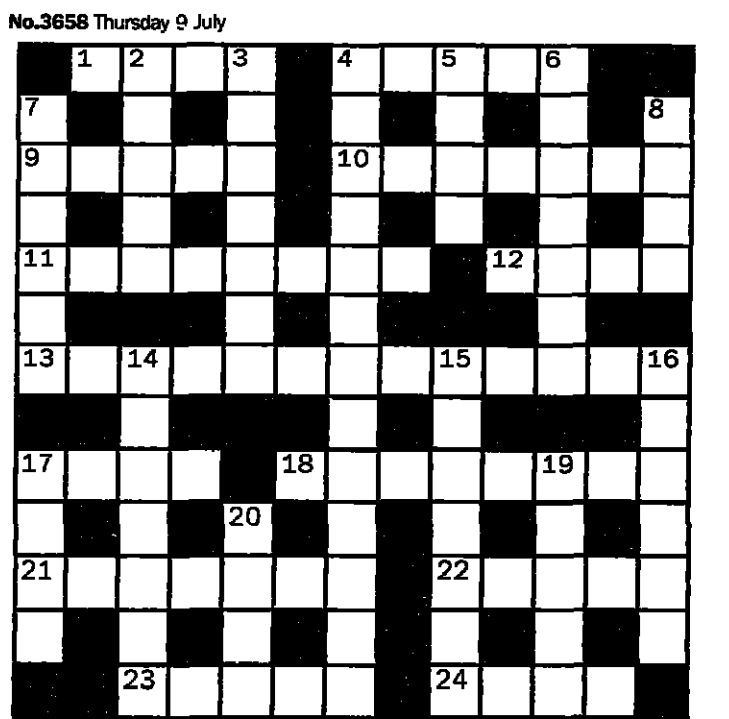
I should add that the big game is played in a jocular spirit and that no one hangs his head in his hands after misreading a penalty. But don't even think of sitting down unless you can write off a few thousand without worrying about the mortgage.

PUZZLE

OTT ARABIANS BEHAVED Answer to yesterday's puzzle: HEFTILY
Can you rearrange the letters in that sentence to tell a tale of over-the-top Arabians behaving heftily? (Answer tomorrow.)

STAG
LORE
OPEN
PEAT

CONCISE CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Drop (4)
 - TV serials (5)
 - Decree (5)
 - Enna or Vesuvius, e.g. (7)
 - Submissive (8)
 - Gemstone (4)
 - Modern communication and production processes (3,10)
 - Restrain (4)
 - Postponed (8)
 - Israeli city (3,4)
 - Be pre-eminent (5)
 - Mountain ash (5)
 - Certain (4)
- DOWN**
- Remain (5)
 - Open framework (7)
 - State of supreme happiness (7,6)
 - Clever (4)
 - Liquid soap for hair (7)
 - Become a member again (6)
 - Earth (4)
 - Songbird (7)
 - Examinations (1-6)
 - Sings in Swiss style (6)
 - Quote (4)
 - Happen again (5)
 - Acknowledgement (4)
- Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:**
- ACROSS: 1 Enchance, 3 Port (indoor sports), 4 Awful, 5 Festoon, 10 Excerpt, 11 Extol, 12 Groove, 14 Assail, 17 Idiom, 19 Admiral, 22 Peeking, 23 Frame, 24 Enema, 25 Thicken. DOWN: 1 Ence, 2 Delecto, 3 Ruler, 4 Effect, 5 Proctor, 6 Recost, 7 Singlet, 12 Glampse, 13 Vampire, 15 Earmark, 16 Caught, 18 Ideas, 20 Multi, 21 Lie-in.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

FOR A WHILE in the early 1990s, Anthony Hopkins (right) was on a roll, receiving undiluted critical acclaim for films such as *Howard's End* and *The Remains of the Day*. August (6pm Sky Movies Screen 2), his directorial debut, was less successful, however, with Hopkins himself playing Iwan Davis, an idler who manages the country estate of his snooty-professor brother-in-law (Leslie Phillips). Essentially, it's Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* relocated to turn-of-the-century



PETER CONCHIE

Walking on Water (0406003), 9.00 Super Stories (0509373), 10.00 Forensic Detectives (0524185), 11.00 Forensic Detectives (0524185), 12.00 First Flight (0744671), 12.30 Top Marquis (0239887), 1.00 Crocodile Hunter (0528887), 2.00 Close.

SKY 1
7.00 Tattooed Teen Alien Fighters (06354), 7.30 Games World (0558338), 7.45 Simpsons (054422), 8.45 Oprah (06354), 9.00 Hotel (06422), 10.00 Another World (06373), 11.00 Days of Our Lives (03808), 12.00 Married with Children (07064), 12.30 M*A*S*H (0027903), 12.55 Special K (0650847), 1.00 Gerardo (0640707), 1.55 Special K (0285049), 2.00 Sally (025548), 3.00 Jerry Jones (0338248), 3.55 Special K (0256069), 4.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (07880), 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (4644), 6.00 The Nanny (05977), 6.30 Married with Children (07064), 7.00 Simpsons (0644), 8.00 Dumbest Criminals (0785), 8.30 Seinfeld (0685), 9.00 Friends (07064), 9.30 Friends (07064), 10.00 Star Trek: Voyager (4644), 11.00 Star Trek: Voyager (4644), 12.00 Seinfeld (0785), 1.00 Long Play (07207).

SKY SPORTS 1
7.00 Sports Centre (0582118), 7.25 Wrestling (060538), 8.15 Sports Centre (060538), 8.30 Racing (07373), 9.00 Aerobics (02823), 9.30 Futbol Mundial (07285).

ing (0574834), 1.30 Ultimate Fishing Show (0449712), 2.00 Greatest Moments (0071422), 2.30 Dickie Davies's Sporting Heroes (0788885), 3.30 World of Super League (0744267), 5.30 Rebel TV (0774489), 6.00 Showjumping (0782002), 6.30 Formula Three (0753354), 7.00 Tight Lines (0793731), 8.00 Showjumping (0782002), 8.30 Formula Three (070793), 9.00 Trans World (0790995), 10.00 Bobby Charlton (0743557), 11.30 Close.

EUROSPORT
7.00 World Cup 98 (06151), 8.00 World Cup 98 (06151), 9.00 Tennis (0821489), 10.00 Mountain Bike (05571), 11.30 Mountain Bike (05571), 12.00 World Cup 98 (06151), 1.00 Tractor Pulling (06544), 6.00 Strength (04891), 6.30 World Cup 98 (06151), 7.00 World Cup 98 (06151), 8.00 Sumo (07977), 10.00 Fitness (00054), 11.00 Bowling (09002), 12.00 Speedworld (09229), 12.30 Close.

UK GOLD
7.00 Crossroads (0303353), 7.30 Neighbours (0303353), 7.55 EastEnders (0303353), 8.30 Bill (037880), 9.00 The Bill (037880), 9.30 Star Trek: Voyager (4644), 10.00 The Bill (037880), 11.00 Dallas (0626489), 11.55 Neighbours Omnibus (0303353), 12.25 EastEnders (0303353), 1.00 All Creatures Great and Small (0708009), 2.00 Great and Small (0708009), 3.25 The Bill (037880), 3.55 Dangerfield (041267), 4.55 EastEnders (0303353), 5.30 Wotbaggroovy

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC
N IRELAND As BBC1 London except: 6.30 - 7.00 Newsline 6.30 9.30 Town Challenge 10.10 Film: Murder in the First 12.05 Hearts and Minds 12.35 Film: Mobsters 2.15 - 6.00 News 24
SCOTLAND As BBC1 London except: 6.00 News 6.30 - 7.00 Reporting Scotland 8.30 - 9.00 Feeling Good 9.30 Beechgrove Garden 10.00 Film: Murder in the First 11.55 Film: Mobsters 1.35 - 6.00 News 24
WALES As BBC1 London except: 6.30 - 7.00 Wales Today
N IRELAND As BBC2 London except: 7.30 - 8.00 Hearts and Minds
SCOTLAND As BBC2 London except: 8.35 Up for It 9.35 - 10.00 The Record 6.00 - 7.30 Golf
WALES As BBC2 London except: 8.00 - 8.30 Way Out West
Anglia
As Carlton except: 12.20 Local News (0408083), 1.00 Hope (02818), 1.30 Home and Away (03712), 2.00 Springer (075877), 3.30 Local News

(171828), 5.40 Shortland St (0618441), 6.00 Home and Away (030064), 6.25 Local News (0408083), 6.55 What's On (08470), 10.30 Local News (07002), 10.40 Road Show (077624), 11.00 Crime Night (060557), 11.40 Midnight Caller (058644), 1.25 Transpotters (114467), 2.25 Fade Away (057828), 3.20 Charts (029218), 4.35 Vanessa (033674), 4.50 Nightscreen (071671).

Central
As Carlton except: 12.20 Central News (0408083), 12.30 News (0444), 1.00 Country Practice (02615), 3.20 Central News (171828), 5.40 Shortland St (0618441), 6.00 Home and Away (030064), 6.25 Central News (0408083), 6.55 Life Line (08470), 10.30 Central News (07002), 10.40 Dharma and Greg (077624), 11.00 Night Fever (060557), 11.40 Medinner (068335), 12.40 Crypt (088247), 4.35 Johnnie R (071039), 5.20 Asian Eye (063749).

HTV Wales
As Carlton except: 10.10 This Morning (0656470), 12.45 Local News (0208538), 1.00 Shortland St (02615), 1.30 Home and Away (03712), 2.00

(0208538), 1.00 Shortland St (02615), 1.30 Home and Away (03712), 2.00 Springer (075877), 3.30 HTV News (171828), 5.30 Country Practice (058144), 6.00 Home and Away (030064), 6.25 Tonight (040408), 7.30 Eisteddfod (071), 10.30 HTV News (068504), 10.45 Wales This Week (068504), 11.15 We Can Work It Out (048647), 11.45 Swift Justice (0486267), 1.25 Transpotters (114467), 2.25 Not Fade Away (0575213), 3.20 The Chart Show (029218), 4.35 Vanessa (033674), 4.50 TV Nightscreen (071671).

HTV West
As HTV Wales except: 6.25 Weather (071460), 7.30 We Can Work It Out (071), 10.45 West Story (068504), 11.15 West Eye View (048647), 11.45 Undercurrents (058199), 12.40 Public Morals (068547).

Meridian
As Carlton except: 10.10 This Morning (0656470), 12.45 Local News (0208538), 1.00 Shortland St (02615), 1.30 Home and Away (03712), 2.00

Springer (075877), 3.30 Local News (171828), 5.37 3 Minutes (073267), 6.00 Tonight (047), 6.30 Grass Roots (047), 10.30 Local News (068504), 10.45 Film: Flatliners (03183354), 1.25 Transpotters (114467), 2.25 Fade Away (0575213), 3.20 Charts (029218), 4.35 Vanessa (033674), 4.50 Nightscreen (068547), 5.00 FreeScreen (088294).

Westcountry
As Carlton except: 10.10 This Morning (0656470), 12.45 Local News (0208538), 1.00 Emmerdale (02615), 1.30 Local News (171828), 5.00 Live (04260), 10.30 Local News (068504), 10.45 Richard Digby (090880), 11.45 Street Legal (046267), 1.25 Transpotters (114467), 2.25 Not Fade Away (0575213), 3.20 Chart Show (029218), 4.35 Vanessa (033674), 4.50 TV Nightscreen (071671).

Yorkshire
As Carlton except: 10.10 This Morning (0656470), 12.45 Calendar News (0208538), 1.00 Home and Away (030064), 1.25 Springer (075877), 3.30

Emmerdale (0332003), 3.20 Calendar News (171828), 5.55 Calendar (042083), 6.30 Tonight (047), 10.30 Calendar News (07002), 10.40 Missing (077624), 11.00 Get Real (060557), 11.40 Charlie Grace (058614), 4.20 Jobs (090132).

Tyne Tees
As Yorkshire except: 12.45 Local News (0208538), 3.20 Local News (171828), 6.00 Tonight (04260), 10.30 Local News (07002), 10.40 Dr Rock (077624), 11.40 Crypt (060557).

S4C
As Channel 4 except: 12.00 Ricki Lake (04070), 12.30 Sesame St (03083), 1.00 Slot Meithran (07093), 1.30 Three Stooges (0859537), 4.30 Countdown (044), 5.00 Sump (062199), 5.45 Sump (027151), 6.00 News (020158), 6.10 Heno (082460), 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (074354), 7.25 Pryd o Ddod (066828), 8.00 Eisteddfod (07193), 8.30 News (0606), 9.00 Designs on Your... (0721), 11.50 TV Cila (09818), 12.20 Michael Hayes (079001), 1.15 Gradi to Grave (062749), 2.15 Close



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

TELEVISION REVIEW

"CHOCOLATE" Nemesis is our most popular and talked about pudding," said Ruth Rogers half-way through *The Italian Kitchen* (C4). This is rather as if Hitler were to say "Our successful excursion to Poland has aroused much interest amongst foreign friends" because most of the talk about Chocolate Nemesis, in coquetry how almost nobody can get the recipe to work at home. Instead of the trembling mouses you saw here, distraught hosts end up with a brown slurry suggestive of a diarrhoeal cow. Delicious slurry. It's true, but lacking something in plate appeal. No light was thrown on the mystery in the last of the series but I suspect the possession of a weapon-grade food mixer probably helps you could see that the River Café's model had whipped the eggs to the point where they wouldn't have dared let the mixture collapse. The quality of the machinery is evident anyway because as a television series, *The Italian Kitchen* honours the stated principles of its cooks - relatively simple techniques applied to the best ingredients you can find. This analogy won't quite go all the way because presenter Ruth Rogers and Rosie Gray aren't exactly top of the range. It's probably best to think of them as organic television presenters, objects whose very irregularity guarantees the absence of artificial chemicals. But apart from that detail, everything is top quality: the demonstrations are filmed either in gleaming kitchens wood-fired ovens flickering alluringly in the background or in a minimalist interior which turns cooking into a form of landscape. If an ice-cream machine is needed it will be a Cadillac of an ice-cream machine, complete with chrome fenders, hand-painted wheels and a high-domed steel shell. Light-fume steel shells, paddles. If nemesis are involved in the recipe, they will be lemon picked straight from a Zantean patch, thick-skinned and adorned with the perfect chromatic green note of a green stalk.

All of this is presented straightforwardly - in formal, uncluttered shots from square ahead or even directly above the work surface. No cooking for visiting Monty dance-troops, no Al Fresco grilling sessions on Hammerhead Bridge, no fondle vandevelde at all - which

makes a refreshing change. On the other hand, this kind of seriousness has its own dangers - the television series is never quite as precious as the cookbooks, which can occasionally give the impression that if your muszarella di bubble hasn't been specially flown in from Naples that day you might as well give up and go out to Spud-U-Like. But there are flickers of the connoisseur's snobbery - the relish of thinking that you're in the know and others aren't. Visiting a famous glacier in Florence, Gray described it in a classic connoisseur's phrase as "well away from the tourist trail". It's a while since I've been to Florence, but when I was last there, one of the ways you could find this particular institution was by swimming up-stream against the breast current of code-climbing tourists coming away from it, every one of whom had been told to go there by their guide books.

In the last of their series of programmes about design, Dick Powell and Richard Seymour look on their richest task so far, the design of a light-weight electric vehicle. Seymour is a challenge to any chassis - he bears a strong resemblance to Christy Dickson-Wright from *Two Fat Ladies*, apart from the fact that he is far more feminine in the manner. But for the Fivoc 4, a Norwegian town runabout, he represented something close to destruction testing. This was the least satisfactory of the three Designs on Tour... (C4) programmes they have done, partly because evolutionary inertia in cars is a great deal stronger - the costs and risk of radicalism being so much higher. Fivoc (which is unlikely to sell many of their vehicles here until it realises that no one wants to drive a hot-dog) didn't want to throw away two years of expensive research and development and entirely redesign the basic framework for the sake of what we call attitude. They also spotted that the alternative proposal had been drawn to look as much like a houseboat on wheels as a houseboat on wheels. This told a truth, though it wasn't about the future of electric cars. One of the reasons designers are employed is because they can make things look good - and that includes their own favoured ideas.

BBC1

- 6.00 **Business Breakfast** (77x22) 7.00 News (7) (94998), 8.00 **At over the Shop** (6) (928370), 8.20 **Kilroy** (5) (955548), 10.40 **Meet the Challenge** (5) (955548), 10.45 **Style Challenge Classics** (5) (931408), 10.55 **Short Changes** (5) (927287), 11.00 News, 11.05 **Regional News: Weather** (7) (927287), 11.05 **Around the World in 80 Days** (6) (93462), 12.00 **Every Second Counts** (5) (93462), 12.30 **Cart Cook** (7) (93462), 1.00 **News: Weather** (7) (93462), 1.30 **Regional News: Weather** (7) (93462), 1.40 **Neighbours** (5) (9485847), 2.05 **Golf**, Continued coverage of the Loch Lomond World Invitational (5) (9284489), 2.30 **Children's BBC**, Noddy (6) (72318), 3.40 **Playdays** (988597), 4.00 **Poopy** (927373), 4.10 **The Littlest Pet Shop** (7) (927373), 4.20 **M. Wynn** (5) (916747), 4.35 **Goodhouse** (5) (9328287), 5.00 **Newsround** (5) (927808), 5.10 **Record Breakers** (5) (927847), 5.35 **Neighbours** (5) (944287), 6.00 **News: Weather** (7) (939), 6.30 **Regional News**, Local news round-up (7) (951), 6.50 **News: Weather** (7) (939), 7.00 **Weather**, the Big Dinner, British families who do not weekly shop in French supermarkets (5) (77934), 7.28 **Children's BBC**, Grants 36th birthday, and is the boogie baby happy? See *Soap of the Day*, below (5) (980573), 7.50 **News: Weather** (7) (939), 8.00 **News: Weather** (7) (939), 8.30 **Regional News**, Local news round-up (7) (951), 8.50 **News: Weather** (7) (939), 9.00 **News: Weather** (7) (939), 9.30 **Regional News**, Local news round-up (7) (951), 9.50 **News: Weather** (7) (939), 10.00 **News: Weather** (7) (939), 10.30 **Regional News**, Local news round-up (7) (951), 10.50 **News: Weather** (7) (939), 11.00 **News: Weather** (7) (939), 11.30 **Regional News**, Local news round-up (7) (951), 11.50 **News: Weather** (7) (939), 12.00 **News: Weather** (7) (939), 12.30 **Regional News**, Local news round-up (7) (951), 12.50 **News: Weather** (7) (939), 1.00 **News: Weather** (7) (939), 1.30 **Regional News**, Local news round-up (7) (951), 1.50 **News: Weather** (7) (939), 2.00 **News: Weather** (7) (939), 2.30 **Regional News**, Local news round-up (7) (951), 2.50 **News: Weather** (7) (939), 3.00 **News: Weather** (7) (939), 3.30 **Regional 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